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Taking the high road with California wine

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, October 19, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 313 P18 www.inq7.net

Shun Aswang Festival, Church tells Capiz folk

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—THE Catholic Church here urged its members to oppose the third Aswang Festival scheduled for Oct. 27-28 by holding prayer vigils in

SHUN, A-10

4 workers in US-funded road project abducted

By Ed General and Jude S. Alpuda
Inquirer Mindanao

JOLO, SULU—GUNMEN KIDNAPPED FOUR FILipinos working on a US-funded road project, Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said yesterday.

The six kidnappers struck on Tuesday afternoon while the victims were driving back to Jolo in a

KIDNAPPING, A-10

SC chief admits pressure on people's initiative

By Armand N. Morano

THE SUPREME COURT IS FEELING THE heat generated by the battle between groups for and against overhauling the Constitution through a signature campaign on people's initiative.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban yesterday admitted to receiving "some pressure," but said this would not affect the independence of the court, which, he added, would resolve the matter by the end of next week.

"Yes, there's pressure from people who are interested ... but the court is used to pressure," Panganiban told justice reporters on the sidelines of an international judicial forum sponsored by the Supreme Court.

Malacañang is supporting Charter change (Cha-cha) either through the people's initiative or Congress turning itself into a constituent assembly—two of the three modes of amending the 1987 Constitution. The third mode is through a constitutional convention whose delegates are elected.

Panganiban did not say whether the pressure was coming from groups asking the high court to reverse the ruling of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) against changing the Constitution through a signature campaign.

Panganiban said the pressure "will not impede the court in deciding the case." Ten of the 15 members of the high court are appointees of Ms. Arroyo.

The Chief Justice said the court would treat the Charter change issue "the same way we treated three high-profile cases in May with importance."

He was referring to the cases involving the Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency at the third week of February; Executive Order No. 464, which barred officials from testifying in Congress without the President's go signal; and the calibrated preemptive response policy, which prohibited protest rallies without permits.

SC CHIEF, A-9

CHIEF JUSTICE Panganiban: How to keep cool inside a pressure cooker.

Palace holds off use of force in Makati

WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS? Makati City Hall is now open for business as usual on orders of the suspended Mayor Binay but who continues to be entrenched in his office on the 21st floor.

Binay may be evicted if he is not out by Friday

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora, Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

FACED WITH MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY'S DEFIANCE, THE government yesterday said it hoped the suspended city executive would peacefully leave the Makati City Hall to avoid being forcibly evicted from his 21st floor redoubt by Friday.

While keen on enforcing its preventive suspension order against Binay, Malacañang, at the same time, appeared to be holding off using force as hundreds of employees remained to work in a City Hall ruled by two rivals—one backed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and the other, by opposition forces.

In a press conference late last night, Binay said the suspension order came no less than from Ms Arroyo.

"It is very clear and understandable that it is GMA that authorized the strike," he said, adding that the order was signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita "upon the authority of GMA."

"Mayor Binay is a lawyer, he is a known political leader. I'm sure he will be wise enough to make a wise decision *na hindi makikitaan ng pwersahan* (that won't lead to the use of force)," Ermita said in reaction to Binay's claim that the government would have to kill him first to get him out of City Hall.

Asked if the authorities would force Binay out if he failed within the next three days to get a court order restraining Malacañang, Ermita said: "We are duty-bound to serve the law. We will let the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) handle the situation. I'm sure they have their own plans. I cannot say that he would be bodily carried out because I don't want to preempt Secretary Ronaldo Puno."

PALACE, A-8

AFP, DILG hit Binay's 'illegal' fashion sense

By Dona Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

AN OPPOSITION LEADER YESTERDAY said suspended Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay could become a rallying point for antigovernment forces, while administration defenders dismissed Binay as a sloppy dresser who could even be charged in court for illegally wearing a military uniform.

A Marine Corps reservist with the rank of a colonel, Binay wore the upper garment of a Marine battle fatigues unbuttoned when he faced the media after Malacañang ordered his preventive suspension the other day. The dress bore a name patch and the insignia of a colonel on the collar.

For this, Binay could be charged with violation of Article of War No. 97 as conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, according to military public information chief Lt.

AFP, A-8

Cabinet revamp: Yap back to DA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Christine A. Gaylican

THERE ARE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE Cabinet.

Presidential Management Staff Director General Arthur Yap is going back to his old post as agriculture secretary 15 months after he gave up the plum portfolio to personally handle a tax evasion complaint lodged against his family.

Malacañang announced President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Yap in place of the incumbent, Domingo Panganiban, who has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments since taking over the Department of Agriculture in July 2005.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also announced late last night that Panganiban will be the lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission in place of Gaspi Remonde, who will replace Yap as PMS chief.

Among those also affected in the latest Palace reshuffle was one of Ms Arroyo's known pet officials, Ma. Elena Bautista, the feisty chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regu-

CABINET, A-19

Senate plans to probe PCGG's 20-year record

By Juliet Labog Javellana and Alexis Papa

HAVING WON ITS CASE IN THE Supreme Court, the Senate is preparing to widen the scope of the investigation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to cover the PCGG's performance in its 20-year existence, Sen. Richard Gordon said yesterday.

Gordon said the Senate would not confine the probe of PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio (who is in the United States) and the three commissioners just yet. He said it would do so only if they elude the hearing to be held after session resume on Nov. 6.

But PCGG Commissioners Narciso Nato, Ricardo Abcede and Nicasio Conti expressed willingness to finally face the Senate.

SENATE, A-19

ANTIPOVERTY EFFORTS

UN honors 10 RP towns, cities

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE 42,000 VILLAGERS OF MAITUM, Sarangani, are quietly showing poverty is not an excuse for not having access to health care or reducing high child mortality and malnutrition rates.

In focusing on taking care of their children as a way of ensuring a solid future, the people of Maitum is one of the country's most impoverished provinces have also started reaping recognition.

Maitum is one of the 10 local government units to receive a special citation from the United Nations which recognizes efforts to fulfill a global promise to eradicate poverty by 2015.

This is the first time that the United Nations, in coordination with the General Going Pools, gave special citations for efforts to achieve the millennium development goals.

Gawad is an annual nationwide awards program recognizing local government practices since 1994.

Drafted by the United Nations and its member countries in 2000, the challenge was specified into eight Millennium Development Goals:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality and empowering women.
- Reduce child mortality.
- Improve maternal health.
- Combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Ensure environmental sustainability.

UN HONORS, A-10

TWO FACES OF WOMEN: One weary scavenger at the garbage dump in the Bosco compound in Tondo, Manila, and the other a ritzy poster girl.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Bomb blasts blamed on JI

By Alcuin Papa

THE POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE SERIES OF BOMB EXplosions in Central Mindanao last week was the handiwork of the al-Qaida-backed Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group.

Bomb experts were able to establish that the three bombs were each detonated by remote-control devices, and its Gresham City have the "signature" of the Jemaah Islamiyah, said Sgt. Albert Ibera, chief of the Philippine Bomb Data Center (PBDC).

In a related development, the Philippine National Police has confidently declared that Mervin Encinada was only dropped very recently circulating about a possible bomb attack on a large shopping mall and a military report of a bombing campaign by Muslim rebel terrorists.

In fact, Director Gen. Oscar Calderon is so confident that he said the full alert status of the PNP in Metro Manila would be downgraded. All other law enforcement units.

He said Metro Manila was safe and that police had no definite information about a threat of a bomb attack despite the PNP now acting to counter the threats.

Bomb diagrams

In the case of the Central Mindanao bombings, forensic investigators were able to come up with a "schematic diagram" of the bombs and reconstruct the relationships between their components.

"The lid mercury tube switch are found, and the circuit of connection using a cell phone is relatively similar to Jemaah Islamiyah's improvised explosive devices," he told some briefing.

Perez said the bombers may have removed the mortar rounds that those "left behind" from recent Bravo campaign against the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The stockpile of bombs and they use those as the main charge of their IEDs [improvised explosive devices]," he said.

Calderon said police believe the recent Central Mindanao bomb attacks were carried out by a rogue group inside the MILF and may not have been sanctioned by the organization.

"We believe that is true the work of some groups within the organization who are sympathetic to the JI. Not would not be his organization but the whole MILF was behind the activity," he said.

The military said last week that the bombings were carried out by the JI and the Abu Sayyaf had engaging in retaliation against the arrest of the indictment of 18 Muslim suspect Dulmatin and to distract the authorities from operations in Jolo against the two groups.

Reports said JI members Dulmatin and Umar Patek, the alleged masterminds of the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, were being aided by the ASG, led by leader Khaddafi Janjalani, in trying to elude military dragnet.

Besides the Bali bombings, the JI is believed to be responsible for the August 2000 assassination attempt on Philippine ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday, the September 2000 attack on the Islamic Youth Parliament, and the 2000 Manila hotel bombing, also in Indonesia.

Authorities said the JI is receiving aid from the al-Qaida international terror network of Osama Bin Laden.

The ASG is also said to be responsible for the Superferry bombings in 2004 and the Valentine's Day bombings in 2005.

Calderon said the police alert status would be downgraded to a heightened alert from full alert.

A full alert means the entire police force has to stay at their posts at all times and no leave would be granted. A heightened alert means half of the force would stay at their posts at all times.

Text messages

"This is not to alarm the citizens of Metro Manila but to make them aware that there are still threats here. But I would say that we are on top of the situation," he said.

According to the text messages, a member of the Abu Sayyaf who had surrendered had revealed the group's plans in Metro Manila, including an attack on a large shopping mall in Mandaluyong.

But Calderon said the text messages were part of a "disinformation" campaign.

Calderon also mentioned a report from the British embassy that terrorists were in the advanced stages of carrying out an attack in Mindanao.

"They (British officials) might have their own basis, but as far as we are concerned, Metro Manila is still safe. Mindanao will remain on heightened alert status," he said.

He said he has yet to see a military report that said two members of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM), a group of Christian converts to Islam that is allied with the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, were believed to be hiding outside Metro Manila and to be constructing bombs to carry out attacks.

"Malabong-malabo (Metro Manila is our main) Police Director Geronimo Acosta (Metro Manila is a traditional target. But then, we have no specific information about the illegal members of the RSM who are in Metro Manila," he said.

Moro rebs protest raps vs MILF chief

SHEIKH GUIMBOLAB TESTIfy promoted their chairman's inclusion in a criminal complaint filed in connection with recent bomb attacks in the southern Philippines, warning it would endanger already-stalled peace talks.

Other filed a murder complaint on Tuesday against Moro Islamic Liberation Front chairman Al Haj Murad and several suspected MILF commanders for allegedly plotting the 08.30 bombing that killed six people and wounded 20 in South Cotabato.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu denied Murad was involved in the attacks and warned of a "total breakdown" in the Malaysian-brokered peace talks if the government pursues criminal charges against the rebel leaders.

He said the MILF would ask the government to withdraw Murad's name from the complaint and is checking to see if any of the other alleged militants named in the complaint are MILF members.

"If they pursue this, it may lead to a total breakdown in the peace process," Kabalu said.

Kimwel de Secretary Eduardo Ermita, meeting in the MILF said he would "look into this ... subsequent clearance was given [by Malacañang the police to file the charges against Murad] because it indicates on a higher activity, unlock in the negotiations with the MILF."

He said he was also inclined to believe that "only specific elements" and not the MILF as an organization was giving aid to the extremist Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah.

The complaint also named three Indonesian militants, as well as a Pakistani national, Ittesali.

Aside from Dulmatin and Patek, already published names of Indonesian militants believed to be hiding in Jolo—two more foreign suspected terrorists were implicated by a surrendered rebel, who allegedly witnessed them planning the bombings, according to regional police Chief Supt. Gennaro Doria.

Terrorist united front?

The informant, Ibrahim Tahan, has alleged that his commander and other MILF rebels, an Indonesian bomb expert identified as Jabida Abdul, and a Pakistani, Usmane al Hajad, met early this month in a rebel camp in North Cotabato to plot the attacks.

The militants "planned and designed to execute simultaneous bombings to this central Mindanao upon orders from the MILF central command through chairman Ibrahim Murad," Tahan said in a sworn affidavit sent by The Associated Press.

Tahan claimed that days later, he overheard his commander discussing the planned bombings with a number of people, including Murad and Dulmatin.

Military Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the attacks could be an attempt by the militants to divert the military's focus from a US-backed offensive against Abu Sayyaf rebels and Indonesian militants, including Dulmatin and Patek, on southern Jolo Island. They also could be in retaliation for the recent capture of Dulmatin's wife in Jolo, he said. The United States, British and Australian embassies have warned their citizens to avoid Mindanao because of possible terrorist attacks.

Bajar

Benita, interviewed by reporters in the Palace, confirmed that there was a "third one," among the Indonesian terrorists hiding in southern Philippines.

However, Ermita mentioned the third bomber and suspected JI member as being named "Bajar." His name came out during the interrogation of Dulmatin's wife, Ismaila Lasaki, a Christian convert, with AP report

HUMAD Bombing suspect

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Bali bomber's wife ordered deported

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION YESTERday ordered the deportation of the Indonesian wife of Bali bombing suspect and Jemaah Islamiya leader Dulmatin for illegally entering the country.

The BI Board of Commissioners issued yesterday the summary deportation order against Ismaila Omar Parie, who was captured with her two children by troops in Pulilan, Bula, early this month.

"She and her children will be deported as soon as we have secured the necessary clearances from the courts and the police," BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr., said in a statement.

She will also be banned from re-entering the country, the statement added.

Some separately said military officers that she preferred to be detained in Manila rather than be sent back to Indonesia. But BI intelligence chief Fidel Rasela said Soria's admission that she also belonged to the terrorist JI was another ground for expulsion.

Parie also reportedly told military interrogators that she was a JI courier and illegally entered the southern island of Jolo in August 2003, where her husband and another JI militant, Umar Patek, were hiding from an international manhunt.

She allegedly confirmed that the JI and the Filipino separatist group Abu Sayyaf were jointly planning to attack urban areas in the south as payback for the Philippines' support for the US-led war on terrorism. Leila B. Salaverria with reports from AP

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ROYAL BRUNEI

Another militant leader shot dead

LUCENA CITY—A MEMBER OF A militant organization of urban poor living by the railroad tracks in San Pablo City was shot dead by an unidentified gunman at about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Eduardo Millares, 54, was walking to work when he was shot in the head and other parts of the body, according to Ouela Catarata, secretary general of Kaisahan Inisiatibo ng Kababaihan Tungo sa Soberanya Tagalog. He died on the spot.

A companion, Veronico Caylan, 42, survived the ambush, suffering a gunshot wound in the right leg.

The gunman, who was armed with a .45-caliber pistol, escaped aboard a tricycle whose driver also acted as a lookout during the shooting, Catarata said.

Catarata immediately placed the blame on the military, which she said "has long been terrorizing the people along the railroad tracks with its unwelcome presence."

Millares was a member of the Samahan ng Magkakapit-bahay sa Tabing Riles (SMTR)-Bahaong, an organization of squatter communities composed of several barangays by the city's railroad tracks.

'Cold-blooded murder'

Ouela said the SMTR was allied with Bahaong, another urban poor group which the military named last year as a communist front organization.

She said the killing may be linked to the SMTR's ongoing opposition to the demolition of hundreds of houses along the railroad tracks in San Pablo.

"We are certain that the military had a hand in this cold-blooded murder," she said.

Catarata said the killers may have been members of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade based in San Pablo.

Brigade head Col. Jorge Segovia denied the accusation, calling the charges "rehashed propaganda of the left against the military."

"From what we gathered, the victim was a police character," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Insp. Sonny Ruddiaza, the San Pablo police chief, said Millares was arrested as a suspect in a robbery at the Land Transportation Office compound in June.

"But he managed to post bail," Ruddiaza said.

He said Millares could have been killed because of an internal squabble among members of the robbery gang.

The Gabriela Southern Tagalog condemned the killing of Millares and immediately pointed to Army soldiers as being responsible.

"This killing is part of the desperate attempt of the national government to push through with the fascist Bail modernization project which will displace thousands of families in Southern Tagalog," said Ariel Valentino, the group's chair.

He said the military had put up detachments in the four barangays—Sta. Ana, San Joaquin, Soledad and Poblacion—to be affected by the demolition.

Virtual martial law

The presence of the soldiers has put the entire community along the railroads under martial law, he said.

"The soldiers already implemented curfew in the area last Aug. 15. Residents are not allowed to go out of their houses beyond 7 p.m.," he added.

He claimed members and leaders of the SMTR had been under surveillance.

Valentino said the Army even "auctioned" several soldiers in the house of SMTR president Alyssa Olores to monetize her activities.

He noted that Millares' house was just in front of Olores's.

"Ohares lives for her life. Sometimes she doesn't go home anymore because she's afraid of the military," he said.

SMTR and Bahaong had a dialogue with the city council a day before Millares was killed during which members of the 202nd were present and were seen taking pictures of the leaders and members of the two urban poor groups.

"We have been opposing the military's presence since last two months. Most of us are being harassed by the military. They have been closely monitoring our houses and we are really threatened," Olores said. Marlon Ramos, Nikko Carbonilla Gallejo and Joelle T. MacBael-Jo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PAL cuts fuel fees by P100

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES announced yesterday it will reduce its fuel surcharge on domestic travel by P100 per round-trip flight effective Oct. 22, as the price of crude oil in the world market eases up.

PAL executive vice president Henry Sy Jr. said the move is timed, so to pass on the benefit of lower fuel rates to the flying public.

"We are sharing with our passengers whatever benefits are due us in terms of lower air rates. This is one way of giving back, however modest, to our loyal customers," he said.

Oil has shed more than a quarter of its value since peaking at $76.40 per barrel in mid-July as global economic growth and supply concerns ease.

The price fell to $58.21 per barrel during Thursday's trading in London.

But Sy said that should the cost of fuel ease up further, it will submit to fuel surcharge accordingly.

For flights between Manila and points in Luzon and Visayas, Legaspi and Virac, the surcharge drops from P800 to P700 per round-trip flight.

Marcoses to face trial in P51-billion case

RICE ALLIANCE
Vice President Noli de Castro receives a plaque from Robert Fernandez, president of the Alyansa ng Industriyang Bigas (Rice Industry Alliance), in meeting at the Club Filipino in San Juan. Dr. Cielito Habito is the guest of honor at Tuesday's induction of Fernandez and other officers of the alliance. PHOTO BY

By Norman Bordadora

ROSARIO PINAT LAUT IMELDA Marcos and her three children will both fold for a P51-billion illegal-wealth case originally filed against the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1987.

The Sandiganbayan 4th Division, in a resolution handed down on Oct. 5, junked two motions to dismiss filed by the Marcos heirs, questioning the validity of their substitution as defendants in Civil Case No. 0027 against the late dictator.

It took the anti-graft court all of 35 years to hand down the resolution on Imelda and her children—Bongbong Marcos, Irene Marcos-Araneta, Gov. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Imee Marcos-Manotoc—had filed the motions to dismiss a year after their dictator died in 1989.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency charged with recovering ill-gotten wealth from Marcos, his family and cronies, is seeking moral damages against the Marcos heirs in the amount of P10 billion, in addition to P1 billion in exemplary damages, unspecified actual and nominal damages, attorney's fees and litigation costs.

The case involves the $22-million bank deposit in the Aetna Realizkredit Corp. owned by businessman Vicente Chaidez, a Marcos crony, obtained from Credit Suisse First Boston and the Security Bank and Trust Co. The loan was guaranteed by the state-owned Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee), since renamed the Trade and Investment Development Corp. (Tidcorp).

The PCGG alleged that the Philguarantee-backed loan was in 1983, as-interest and maturity conclusive proof that the Marcos couple, who was then minister of human settlements and Interim Batasang Pambansa member, had "amassed ill-gotten wealth amounting to the approximate amount of the loan granted by the then Central Bank governor Jaime Laya.

When ARCI defaulted on the loan, Philguarantee had to assume the obligation and later sued Chaidez and his companies for reimbursement. Philguarantee won in the process of negotiating a settlement with the Marcos government when Marcos was ousted in 1986. The Aquino government froze the deal and the PCGG entered a separation to be heir against ARCI.

In 1987, the PCGG filed a P51-billion suit with the Sandiganbayan against Chaidez, Alavera, Imelda and 20 others.

In their petition, Imelda and her children argued that the criminal and civil obligations of the late dictator may no longer be pursued as he had died on Sept. 28, 1989.

The court ruled otherwise, saying the government claim should be pursued against Imelda and the children as Marcos' legal heirs.

"The claims of the plaintiff against defendant Ferdinand Marcos are not extinguished by his death," the Sandiganbayan said.

"Under the present Rules of Court, even actions for the recovery of monetary claims are no longer dismissed when the defendant dies before the entry of final judgment," it said.

Imelda also challenged the court's jurisdiction over her, saying she was acting under the authority of her husband in accordance with the 1973 Constitution which, she claimed, put her actions—as well as the actions of executive immunity.

But the court said that executive immunity was "not in the nature of a sovereign passport for all executive officials and employees of the executive department," as Imelda was arguing.

"Her being the wife of the President, Governor of Metro Manila, Minister of Human Settlements and member of the Batasang Pambansa does not substantially distinguish her from the range of this province," it said.

Erap wants to visit ma weekly

By Norman Bordadora

DETAINED FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to visit his ailing 102-year-old mother, Mary Mercedes Estrada, on a weekly basis.

At the same time, Estrada's lawyers asked the court to give the former president until his son and co-accused Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada up to Dec. 27, 2006 to complete their formal offer of evidence in the plunder case.

The defense lawyers also filed their formal offer of evidence composed of 20 documents as part of Estrada's defense in the separate perjury case filed against him by the government.

Estrada, through their counsel Nene Pimentel, is asking the court to grant him leave to be with his mother in their home while in Tanay every Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

He said the proposed schedule will be "subject to continuing review depending on whether her condition will improve or worsen."

Through a motion, Estrada told the anti-graft court special division hearing his case that his mother's health condition has deteriorated as evidenced by a medical certificate issued by her attending physician.

Dr. Lorenzo M. Reyna, director of the San Juan Medical Center, said Doreen is already bedridden and has poor food intake.

Recurrent sickness

"Her current status has progressively deteriorated. Lately, there is always the intermittent risk of rupture of the abdominal aneurysm which, if ruptured, would be fatal," Reyna said.

Since his fall from power in 2001, Estrada has been allowed several times to visit his mother in the care of the special division to visit her ailing mother. It is the only mention of the former president and his son's name in connection with the case against them.

The last time Estrada saw his mother was when the celebrated her 102nd birth anniversary in May at the former president's residence on Polk Street, North Greenhills, San Juan. She lives in the nearby Kennedy Street.

In his formal offer to the prosecution, Estrada submitted evidence to prove that he was "denied due process and equal protection, subjected to selective prosecution and unduly discriminated against with an evil motive and an intrepid hand."

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Correction

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Hitch was no big deal, says DILG official"—misstated the first name of the secretary of the interior. His name is Ronaldo, not Ronaldo.—Inquirer

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 19, 2006
28th Week in Ordinary Time
(Isaac Jogues / Jean de Brebeuf and Companions / Feast of the Cross)
Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his Disciples, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and would that the fire were already kindled! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and they will kill and persecute some of them, that the present generation will have to account for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him many questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

Jesus, the blessing of the Father, love and light, and the Spirit—equal and inclusive—He was drawn to dwell within our God and to be both His Sons, beloved sons and daughters of the Father. We are brothers, sisters of Jesus so that we might share in the glory of wisdom that belongs everything together in Christ. What a calling we have been given!

Jesus is appalled at what some of the leaders of his own people do in the name of religion. He had strength, being unwilling blocks to those seeking God, even slaughtering the true prophets who speak the truth. And then he says, almost Jesus, wishing a way to get him to his own words. Do we remember who we are and what God asks of us, and how what we do affects others around us?

P10M worth US-bound garments from China seized

By Lolit B. Sidowela

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS HAS SEIZED P10 MILlion worth of garments from China that were bound for the United States but falsely labeled "Made in the Philippines," in violation of the customs and tariff code.

This is a similar operation participated in by an anonymous traders from both China and the Philippines, that aims to skirt quota restrictions on China-made textile and garments, while taking advantage of the no-quota privileges of apparel suppliers from the Philippines.

Spot checks of the apparel shipment from China, which arrived at the Port of Subic on Oct. 9 aboard the Sinon Trader, revealed more than 6,000 cartons that were made in China by the Guangdong Textile Import and Export Corp. and was reportedly intended for shipment to the United States.

The shipment was intercepted by representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry and the US Customs and Border Protection group.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the stepped-up vigilance against undeclared Chinese garment shipments was in line with a recently signed memorandum of understanding between the Philippines and the United States which aims to curtail the use of Philippine ports as a transshipment point for China-made garments.

Deputy Commissioner Reynaldo Nicolas, who heads the Intelligence and Operations Coordination Group, issued an alert order against the shipment for violating the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. He said the Bureau's legal office would conduct further investigations on the shipment in preparation for the filing of smuggling charges against those responsible for it.

Transport groups back insurance scheme

THE COMPETE'S MAJOR TRANSPORT groups have thrown their support behind the expanded Toss Group insurance system to public utility vehicles to avoid out-of-line insurance policies that have been victimizing them in the past.

The transport groups Kodao, Piston, Alliance, MANIA, PUJEO Area, Batang Manila and MTI said the current Toss Group insurance system was established for the purchase of compulsory third party liabilities (CTPL) by public utility vehicles adequately addresses issues concerning third-party insurance coverage.

The Toss Group System, established by the Land Transportation Office Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in 2003, calls for all covered insurance companies who wish to participate in the Passenger Accident Insurance Program (PAIP) to sign any of the two groups accredited by the LTFRB.

The system was covered after transport groups complained to the LTFRB about the proliferation of fake insurance policies and the resulting non-payment of claims.

The transport groups vented support for the Toss Group system after reports by the Insurance Commission to allow member insurance companies, Alpha Insurance and Surety Co., to issue the "endorsed" compulsory third party liability coverage for PUVs.

The groups claimed Alpha had not complied with the benchmark requirements set by the LTFRB when it approved the endorsement and consolidation of branches under the CTPL.

Batangas port reports record Customs take

WHILE THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS fell short of its collection target for the month of September, the district port of Batangas recently recorded an unprecedented increase in revenue collections compared to the same period last year.

The Port of Batangas together with its sub-ports of Subic, Quezon and Puerto Princesa, Palawan collected a cumulative actual cash collection of P1,722,518,616.75 for the month of September this year, exceeding its target of P1,722,518,616.75 by 100%.

The September 2006 share, the actual cash collection realized P1.7 billion, is 17% percent higher over the month's target of P1.4 billion, representing P299 million additional revenue for the government. The Port of Batangas has consistently exceeded its monthly target through the first 22 percent of the year, Teodoro Collector Ermita Customs said in a press statement.

Customs attributed the increase in revenue collection to unprecedented volume of revenue such as motor vehicles, machinery and equipment, and value-added exports that go through the Port of Batangas, and a more efficient payment system for importers and brokers.

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24 years for Pinoy who killed sis-in-law, nephew in UK

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO NURSE... was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment in the United Kingdom after a jury found him guilty of stabbing to death his sister-in-law and nephew, the Philippine Embassy in London said yesterday.

An 11-person jury at Chester Crown Court found Orlando Santos guilty on two counts of murder, which a 12-year sentence for each count.

The verdict was handed down on Monday, the embassy added.

Santos will have to serve his sentence before he can apply for parole, the embassy said.

Santos had admitted to stabbing Cheryl Strolla, 39, and her son, Ross, 13, with a kitchen knife but claimed he did not remember details of the crime, according to the Daily Mail, a British paper.

Another paper, the Chester Standard, reported that Santos' wife, Strolla, was "torn between her husband and her family."

Wife testifies

It reported that on the witness stand, Strolla had said that her husband was "not in his right mind that day."

The killings took place on Dec. 3, 2005 inside the home that Strolla and his wife shared with Cheryl and her family on Dorset Road, Upton.

According to the newspaper reports, Santos had told Strolla's sister that he felt ill in the UK and had wanted to return to the Philippines.

On the day of the killings, the Santos couple had an argument about going back to the Philippines.

Strolla, who was employed at a nursing home, had already left for work when her husband attacked her sister and nephew who had tried to defend his mother.

Cheryl was stabbed four times, and the boy six times.

Extended family

Unofficial estimates by had been living in Upton since 2000. They were joined by the latter's four years later.

Ed Malaya, acting Foreign affairs spokesperson, said that "by most likelihood, they [Santos] have regular residence papers."

"The embassy extended assistance to [the] victims' families and the accused. An assistance to national officer attended the trials and ensured that he [Santos] had legal counsel and that a Filipino interpreter was at the trial," Malaya added.

The embassy said that while the trial was extensively covered by the local UK media, "it is noteworthy that there was no reported big of support from the Filipino community in Chester, either for the victims' or the accused's families."

The embassy took note that there were no other Filipinos present during the trial.

Two bishops warn of stronger popular dissent

By Christian V. Esguerra
At Manila
and Yolanda Saiido Pueroro
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TWO ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS yesterday expressed concern at the plight of suspended Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Cabanatuan Bishop Sergio Utleg Bilgasol said enforcing a group of civilians loaded with armed agents posing as the St. Peter's Parish on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City to meddle the predicament of the leader of the United Opposition.

Suspicion rising

Bilgasol stressed that the perceived pressure being exerted by Malacañang on Binay would further fuel attitudes the public.

"If it's a real political vendetta then it's the worst kind," he told reporters. "I think it will worsen further the love of the Filipino people."

Bilgasol said the issuing of the suspension order against Binay was "suspicious" as it came on the heels of a similar suspension order against Pasay Mayor Pres-erve Trinidad, another vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If you look at it, the one who planned everything was really intelligent," the bishop said.

But Bilgasol cautioned against rash judgments, saying people should also look into the veracity of allegations being leveled against the Makati mayor.

"We have to look at other developments to see what really is the truth," he said.

Its Butuan City Archbishop Oscar Cruz warned the government of a louder and oftentimes popular dissent because of Malacañang's "obvious bias against opposition officials."

"This doesn't bode well on the opposition is no longer an imaginative because President Macapagal-Arroyo has long been demonized by the administration particularly in her political allies," Cruz said in an interview.

Absence of justice

His sentiments are examples to the presence of Binay while a pro-administration mayor in Metro Manila who, he said, had been accused of at least 26 administrative and criminal offenses, was left largely untouched by his office."

Cruz did not identify the mayor.

"All these eventually mean the absence of moral justice in the country precisely because the administration and its allies control, or buttresses, and not accordingly, in order to have law," Cruz said.

"One thing is certain—that sooner the legal system in the country's ecclesiastic works, that is a guarantee of a counter-reality based and stronger popular dissent that will definitely lead to anything but a united people and progressive country," he added.

Palace holds off use of force in Makati

To page A2

But Ermita stressed that the Palace still believed that Binay was "a very responsible citizen, political leader and mayor of the premiere city" and that whatever decision he finds would not lead to chaos in the running of the country's financial capital and former economic and political and trade relations.

Interior Undersecretary Ronaldo Puno said Binay would have to vacate City Hall if the Court of Appeals decided against issuing a temporary restraining order by Friday.

"If there's a judgment in your favor, what do you do? Do call the police to bring him out," Andaya told the lawyer in an interview.

Andaya, however, said that his lawyer party went to the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office Friday filing Binay or PDP-Laban were a respondent now and he expected him to leave City Hall soon.

No order to use force

"I don't think it will come to that," Andaya said, referring to the question of bringing in a police force to take on Binay and his supporters.

Anderson Secretary Rene Saguisag, DILG spokesperson, said there was no guarantee order from Malacañang to forcibly oust Binay out of City Hall by weekend.

Ermita, however, said that the suspension order clearly stated that the 16 suspended officials should desist from entering their official tasks.

"This includes having to leave the premises," he said.

Ermita said the DILG had allowed Binay to stay for a few days in his office to give him time to leave peacefully.

Binay softening?

If the Court of Appeals doesn't issue out such a TRO on Friday he has to leave, hardly, he can't stay there during his 60-day suspension. Then along time," Andaya said.

He however said that Binay had already started to soften the ground for legal processes will arise in alleged human transaction and public service forename of City Hall.

"We are just a softening of his stand. I think he is realizing that if it gets [to] the point that Binay had already started to soften the ground for legal processes will arise in alleged human transaction and public service forename of City Hall.

"We are just a softening of his stand. I think he is realizing that if it gets [to] the point that Binay had already started to soften the ground for legal processes will arise in alleged human transaction and public service forename of City Hall.

If Makati caretaker and Interior Regional Director Rodolfo Bienvenido Lazo, it would be unnecessary to take over Binay's office itself to the city could be run smoothly, assistant said the DILG would have to send Binay itself.

"We'll send him a bill for the rental of his office (which) he's not supposed to occupy," Andaya said.

Who gives the orders

Ermita (Binay) would be suspended if Binay doubted to stay in despite the issuance of a TRO, Andaya said: "There's nothing to negotiate. He has been suspended and the order has been served."

As the political standoff dragged on, Binay and his allies, the Quezon Caretaker, said made his claim refusing been responsible for reopening City Hall.

"It was quite my order. Isn't it that in fairness to Mr. Dave Oh-ofelen is that members are affected? So why should we allow that?" said Binay as he made the rounds of the Manila building to check whether business operations had relocated to normal.

"We had a happy and courteous meeting. It seems that I have their support. I also told them that I am qualified. I am here to help them, so that [there will be no] reasons and that services will be continuous," Pesano told reporters.

In a memorandum circulated to all department heads and barangay officials on Sunday, Pesano ordered clients to run the city services.

He said in the memo that he would execute caretaker until Mr. Arroyo had designated a new set of officials.

Who's in charge here?

It was not clear whether City Hall employees and officials had returned to work or the orders of caretaker or Binay, but officers providing basic services were open.

Boundary were allowed to come inside the main building to pay their taxes, redeem driver's licenses, process birth certificates and building permits.

Elected city service officers was also resumed.

Nelia Bardi, head of the city treasury, said that despite the growing crowd that continued to show up to support Binay, business was running smoothly.

Pesano said that if Binay refused to vacate his office by Friday he would have to move with him.

"I will not use force to remove him. If on his office. It will only damage the open offices of the City Hall," he said.

While no sign to sight in the standoff, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado said he would give up his post if there was an TRO before Friday.

But he said this did not mean he had dropped considering Binay, who was suspended along with Mercado and 15 city councilors his two months for allegedly keeping 1,600 "ghost employees" in the city payroll.

Mercado has ready shown up in the post-conference Binay has been getting together for the 26 councilors, at his office. Mercado said he was just awaiting the media frenzy.

"There is no holding out. Let us not give color to this. Binays [Binay and I are] not about backing. So's political issue could destroy [our friendship]," Mercado told reporters.

Binay supporters

More hotels holding Binay supporters gathered at the Ninoy Friday pegged the crowd at 3,500 but according to Inquirer estimates, the number ranged from 2,500 to 3,500.

Supporters took turns making speeches and drum songs were played in between. A dancing band also entertained the crowd.

"All these eventually mean the absence of moral justice in the country precisely because the administration and its allies control, or buttresses, and not accordingly, in order to have law," Cruz said.

"One thing is certain—that sooner the legal system in the country's ecclesiastic works, that is a guarantee of a counter-reality based and stronger popular dissent that will definitely lead to anything but a united people and progressive country," he added.

SECOND DAY: Overnight, a unit was set up remain in front of the Makati City Hall in a population of about 2,000 for various stages of rest and recreation, but staff and event saw fewer by supporters of Binay. The mayor himself has called on his friends to join their protesting his suspension calling it a form of harassment by the Arroyo administration against the United Opposition of which he is a president. PHOTO BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

GIANT MISS IT: Aside from the Binay name's light above it, Binay's picture is bigger than the sign's words (center) on the 23-story building of the Makati City Hall as the second day of his defiant stand against the suspension order issued by the DILG. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

THE OTHER MAYOR: Rodolfo Fresnoza, DILG director for Metro Manila and Makati City OIC, makes the work holding office from the old City Hall as the suspended mayor refuses to leave his office. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Poe's widow supports Mayor Binay

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THERE WERE NO FIGHTING words from actress Susan Roces—just, sadly understanding pronouncements.

The widow of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday visited embattled Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in his Makati City Hall office and offered him words of encouragement and support.

"I'm here in support of my friend Mayor Binay. It was of the poor people. He championed the aspirations of Mr. Poe," Roces told reporters as she was leaving Binay's office.

"I think it's very unfair, the charges against him. On the other hand, I pray that it will be over soon. Many are unaware that he is an able mayor and his dedication to his job, especially for the poor."

Binay supported Poe in the 2004 presidential election that her estranged husband to this day by charges that Mrs. Arroyo won by cheating. Mr. Arroyo says she was cleverly.

"For me, as a friend, I hurt, what is happening. I hope this ends so he could continue his service for Makati," Roces said of Binay. "I am not a lawyer but I have served in government. But in an ordinary citizen, I am wondering, what this is, where is this going. But hopefully everything would be in order so he could continue serving."

Binay for his part said he took up the issues and assault for a friend, Roces said. "Hindi naman po ng ayos, maayos naman ako (Everything's not, things are orderly here)."

Transport strikes

Binay's other supporters, however, had their sights beyond City Hall.

Black and White Movement's Vicente Romano said groups backing Binay, including civil society, militants and supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, were ordered to plan rallies in support of Binay.

Also yesterday, tricycle and jeepney drivers launched strikes and purported commuters careless around Makati in support of Binay.

Robert Ordoñez, president of the Federation of Free Workers, said the decision that some 3,000 tricycle drivers stopped plying their routes.

'Until suspension is over'

"This is our way of supporting the mayor," Ordoñez said. "We will keep on doing this to show our support for the mayor because he helped us a lot in our livelihood. Until this [suspension] is over, we will keep on backing mahor."

Besides, Ordoñez said, drivers called on the streets in the event that the evening and will earn some money for their families.

Orlando Olimpos, president of the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance Inc., said 5,000 jeepneys joined off their routes to condemn Binay's suspension.

AFP, DILG hit Binay's 'illegal' fashion sense

To page A2

Col. Romulo Rosero.

"He's subject to military law, therefore, he's subject to that law," Rosero said. "Under the Articles of War, he is considered a reservist. All the more he should not be wearing the uniform," he added.

Interior Undersecretary Ronaldo Puno declined to comment on Binay's unusual stance as an "unresponsible show of braggadocio" and "a sloppy display of insecurities."

It was Andaya who ordered 16 officials of City Hall, the mayor, suspending Binay and 17 others officials for nine months while investigation is going on over charges that they forged "ghost employees" on their rosters.

What's he up to?

"What's he trying to prove? That he's a Muslim tolerant and he has followers among the Muslim rebels?" Andaya told the reporters.

"Is he trying to say that there will be no coup d'Etat taken out of City Hall?"

Andaya and Binay are both graduates of the National Defense College. And since is a reservist colonel in the Air Force.

The denied Pasay Uniform Code states that enlisted and reserve officers on inactive status, like Binay, may wear the military uniform only during military gatherings, or while on instruction in an educational institution, or when riding in a military camp or post to participate in military drills or exercises.

6 years imprisonment

Rosero said Binay could also be charged with violation of the Revised Penal Code or. Illegal use of uniforms and insignia, and Republic Act No. 493, which prohibits the use of military grades except for purely military purposes.

Under the penal code, the offender is punishable with a maximum penalty of eight years.

"These are just possible charges. We've not saying we'll file charges," Rosero stressed.

Binay's lawyers were opposed to be the first from the daughter of Deputy Ministry Leader Rodolfo Gonzi, who said that the Makati mayor could even become a presidential timber.

Gozlo said that Binay the president of the United Opposition, could become the rallying point of the fractured political opposition if the anti-government forces do not organize substantive issues in the run of office.

Natural groundswell

"If the violent treatment of Mayor Binay continues, Binay could become like a rallying point of the opposition and he could also be (2010)," Gozlo said.

"Why not Binay for president? He has the abilities of a leader. He's smart, has street appeal, and guts," he said.

Many cases in the history of mankind, it is the one who defending someone that catapults a person to the highest post, Gozlo said.

"I'm not saying that he will run or is running for president. What I'm saying is that the circumstances might create a natural groundswell."

Days of uncertainty

Gozlo pointed out that the late President Ramon Magsaysay was "catapulted from obscurity" during the Huk rebellion in the 1950s while the 1986 People Power Revolt also catapulted both Cesarean Aquino and Fidel Ramos to the presidency.

More opposition leaders rallied behind Binay as administration lawmakers lashed Binay-calling's suspension order.

Inodagnate party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said, "Mabuhaling sa anger nawo nilson it amako. Eto, persists is pushing Makati ming to pull out all ways in protecting itself, to the extent that it will introduce some dangerous doctrine."

Rep. Liza Maza said Binay's 60-day suspension is "equivalent to 60 days of brutality."

Representatives Edcel Lagman, Uy Kabayi and Douglas Cagas also criticized Binay's preventive suspension and vowed to give votes to a bill that investigation of the case against him. With a report from Michael Lim Ubay

'Banker to the poor' is 3rd RM awardee to win Nobel

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

MOTHER TERESA

DALAI LAMA

OSLO (Norway) (AFP) — Bangladesh banker Muhammad Yunus, a Magsaysay awardee, on this year's Nobel Peace Prize awardee, Yunus and the Grameen Bank shared the honor announced by the Nobel Committee "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below."

He is the third Magsaysay awardee to be given the Peace Prize. Mother Teresa (Government Undersecretary, 1962) received her Nobel Prize in 1979, and the 14th Dalai Lama (Community Leadership, 1959) received the Nobel Prize in 1989.

Yunus received his Magsaysay award, when referred to as today's Nobel, 22 years ago, in 1994, in the Community Leadership category for "enabling the neediest rural men and women to make themselves productive with small group-managed credit," through his seminal establishment of the Grameen Bank.

In a press statement, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, which administers Asia's premiere prize, said Yunus and Grameen Bank have clearly moved from strength to strength.

"It is truly inspiring to see that their good work has continued and grown over the years, and has now gained further recognition in the international community."

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 inspired by the leadership example of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay who was widely admired in his country and throughout the world. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund gave an endowment for the creation of the award, with the agreement and cooperation of the Philippine government.

GIs do good, but not to ease Subic rape furor

OLONGAPO, Philippines—Outraged protests by American Marines and sailors who arrested a Subic shopper for US$5 (about P250) in counterfeit money have canceled the three-day recreation charged with raping a Filipina at least a year ago, warning that **sex arrests in Olongapo** the liquor ever (but already) **business**.

"These are pre-planned activities that we do not only in the Philippines but also in other countries where our field units are, we want to show good community relations," United States Marine Capt. Russell Parmer, public affairs officer for the Subic Freeport and Tourism Landing Exercises, said in a phone interview.

On Wednesday, those on the USS Essex distributed school supplies, sports equipment and other machines at the Gordon Heights Elementary School 2 in Olongapo City. The troops will also help repaint some school buildings.

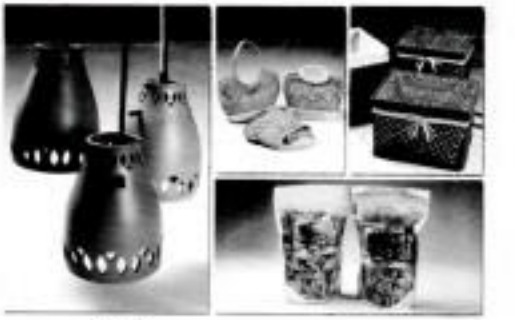
The city is outside the Subic Bay Freeport, where the supposed rape happened on Nov. 1, 2005 at the end of the Balikatan exercise.

"Nicole," the 23-year-old complainant, alleged that Lance Corporal Daniel Smith raped her inside a moving van while Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpenter, Lance Corporal Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood drove/(Smith) on.

Smith claimed Nicole consented to have sex with him.

A Makati City judge is set to decide on the case on Nov. 27. It was the first rape case filed against US troops participating in exercises held under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Rowena Crespo, Inquirer Central Luzon



Organized by dti, Office of Representative ROCEL LAGUMAN, PHILEXPORT, APPTI

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY - Region V

Shun Aswang Festival, Capiz folk told

From page A1

all parishes.

In Pilipinas Kitbisu, the viewing is a selection ceremonies.

Organizers said the festival would help dispel the negative perception about Capiz as typhoon refuges the viewing are found.

In a pastoral letter read in all churches here during Masses on Sunday, Msgr. Victorino Hilario asked religious communities, youth groups, liturgical ministries and entertainers to organize prayer vigils in churches and chapels during the two-day festival.

Hilario said there was no need for the festival.

Hilario, the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Capiz, also called on Catholics who could not attend the prayer vigils in churches to organize similar activities in their barangay chapels.

"We do believe in the power of prayer. And through prayer, we express our spirit via strong opposition to the viewing festival in a peaceful but sincere manner for transformation of hearts," he said.

Attitude problem

He pointed out that the province had produced luminaries in different fields. "They were hardworking Capiceños who earned names for themselves and made Capiz proud of their sons and daughters," he said.

Hilario expressed dismay over the attitude of "some Capiceños" who "deny their greatness of origin and falsely because of a negative perception fostered by a festival."

While some members of the political community in Capiz upheld the rights of the festival organizers, Hilario said officials should also respect the rights of other Capiceños who oppose the festival.

The Catholic Church had also opposed the holding of the festival last year.

On Oct. 16, 2005, Capiz archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo denied a second pastoral letter expressing strong opposition to the holding of the event. The Catholic Church also held a caravan as a form of protest.

Cheryl Jean Lantiason of the Iloilo-Capiz-Antique Inc. (ICAI), organizer of the festival, said that instead of focusing the fest, her group would focus on the event's objectives—promoting tourism and helping eradicate the anti-tourism tagging of Capiznon.

"We only catch people would look beyond the banner and blame us for the atrocity of our ancestors. The DEC has decided to focus all energies on the preparation of the activities so there will be very important persons and foreign guests attending the festival," Lantiason said.

UN honors 10 RP towns, cities

From page A1

• Develop global partnerships for development.

Their goals could be done and the experiences of Malitbog and the other awardees are concrete proof, citation committee member Lea Rodriguez said.

"We are saying that the goals are doable, that local governments, no matter how poor, can achieve these goals with good leadership," Rodriguez said.

In the all-day group along with Malitbog are the provinces of Bukidnon, Capiznon in Leyte; Concepcion in Iloilo, Malitbog in Davao del Sur; Siocon City of Mosbay in Nueva Ecija, Naga City in Camarines Sur, the province of Oriental Negros, Zamboanga City and Pasay City.

"We are focusing on taking care of our children because they are our future. We want to develop them," Malitbog Mayor George Ritter told the Inquirer during the awarding ceremony in Malitbog City via Hondo right.

With this program, which was launched in 2002, children in Malitbog are taken care of the moment they are conceived, Ritter said.

The cosmic barangays in the town used to be passive armies were mothers dying during pregnancy or after giving birth. Most of the time are in the mountains and access to the hospital is difficult.

Things have started to change.

Ritter said road networks were not only being improved, but essential health care was also being brought right at the doorstep of mothers and pregnant women.

The real heroes

Malitbog has seven midwives, each looking after a few barangays. They have a list of pregnant women and mothers to take care of, whom they would visit regularly.

They are the real heroes.

Ritter said the midwives would have to walk or get on a motorbike just to reach remote areas.

Thanks to community participation, which also took the form of voluntary contributions, the local government also managed to build health and nutrition posts to guide parents in taking care of their children, a primary school and day care centers for two barangays, members of which also get their salaries from the donations.

Malitbog also has a Local Council for the Protection of Children, part of a Municipal Development Plan for Children (2002-21) which also includes an annual investment plan for children, a local code for children, and a monitoring system to ensure that children's rights are upheld.

In the special citation program, Bitanjan reported that the rate of malnutrition dropped from 27 percent in 2000 to 13 percent in 2005. It also recorded a 22-percent decrease in maternal deaths and a 66-percent decline in the number of children dying before reaching 5 years old.

Previous Gawad awardees

Rodriguez said Malitbog and the other eight awardees were chosen from previous winners of the Gawad Galing Pook.

From the list of past winners, the selection committee, composed of officials from the Galing Malitbog and Gawad Galing Pook, chose 20 local governments which had been striving to comply with the eight millennium development goals.

From the 20 short-listed local governments, the selection committee finally chose the 10 winners which would serve as "examples to other local government units," Rodriguez said.

The small town of Capiznon in Leyte, for instance, was recognized for its "gender approach to poverty alleviation."

The 19-percent reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty in Capiznon has been remarkable, but what makes the achievement different, if not special, is that it was accomplished with the help of strong women's organizations.

Capiznon Mayor Maloreta Fortuna told the Inquirer that it was a conscious effort of the municipal government to encourage women's participation in development planning. Women's groups are also given livelihood programs.

Other winners

The other winners were:

• **Bulacan province**, which received the spirit of cooperation, focused on education, promoted women's empowerment through the Provincial Commission for the Women of Bulacan and encouraged livelihood. Photo courtesy through the Commission Responsive Governance Project.

• **Concepcion in Iloilo**, which implemented the Zero Poverty 2020 program in 2005. This reduced poverty incidence from 47 percent in 2000 to only 45 percent in 2004.

The program also provided alternative livelihood to residents by giving them access to microfinance and supporting fisherfolk by protecting marine environments, and farmers, by giving them access to new farming technologies.

• **Malabag in Davao del Sur**, which received the Invited Reform Special Mention Basic Needs program in 1997. The program livelihood assistance to families.

The town reported the number of unemployed fathers went down from 494 in 1999 to only 30 in 2005, while the number of unemployed mothers went down from 1,810 to 37.

• **Mabini in Nueva Ecija**, which harnessed development programs by acquiring 21 units of construction equipment and vehicles, giving the city collections of savings in infrastructure projects.

• **Naga City in Camarines Sur**, which started the Productivity Improvement Program to professionalize the local government workforce through streamlining, combining red tape and giving incentives to employees, generating a 6.3-percent annual growth in local economy and attracting P612 million worth of investments from 2001 to 2003.

• **Oriental Negros**, which created the Bulusan at Pelandaan duty to Kabataan program in 2002 to attract the youth back to farming and fishing by introducing them to schools.

• **Zamboanga City**, which launched the 4ESD-Free Zamboanga City Program and became one of the only nine local government units in the country with a reliable system to monitor and monitor the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

• **Pasay City**, which has a community-based monitoring system to increase the living conditions of each household in seven barangays.

It also started the Breastfeeding Program, a pooled saving scheme among urban poor communities harnessing the microfinance institutions, offering loans to residents with meager incomes.

4 workers in US-funded road project abducted

From page A1

pick-up truck following an inspection of the road being constructed linking Patikul and Indanan town proper.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Seakura, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said another section escaped unharmed and reported the abduction to the military.

USAID-to-carabao projects

Matthew Lamerdorf, information officer of the JTI Embassy in Manila, told the Inquirer by phone that the kidnapping could delay the implementation of USAID (US Agency for International Development)-projects in Sulu.

"Definitely, it will have an impact on some specific projects, probably a brief delay," he said.

"It was tragic and unacceptable especially now that we are in the midst of our development efforts," Lamerdorf said.

But he said the abduction would not deter America's commitment to help in the development of Sulu.

"We are committed to push with the development efforts on the island," he said.

Loong said that one of the gunmen was identified as Bong Salih, a security officer in the project being implemented by Gawish with Equity in Mindanao (GEM).

"It might be a labor problem or for reasons, we are still trying to verify the motive of the kidnapping," Seakura said. He said soldiers had been dispatched to track down the gunmen.

Abducted in Barangay Bolbog in Barangay town were Romeo Rivera, an engineer with the Davao City-based Hinabtik Construction; Reynaldo Bitasan and Leroy Ramirez, both mandosors with Boyo Solar Chemicals of Manila; and Jaylen Asmanki, driver of the truck owned by Loong.

"We really owe maintenance to have this kind of incident in our place," Loong said in the Inquirer.

Loong said he was hoping that the abduction would not deter the GEM from pursuing its projects in the province, including ports, cement warehouses, bridges and school buildings, and potable water systems.

Mindanao Construction and Concrete Products was hired by the GEM for the road construction project.

'Hardworking'

Rolando Revia, the company's executive secretary, described an engineer, Rivera, as a "hardworking" employee, who has been with the firm since 1995. Rivera is a civil engineering graduate, married and has two children, she said.

The victim's younger brother, Antonio, pleaded to learn the news about the abduction.

"I tried to call him yesterday," he said in a phone interview.

"What was the police and military doing more?" he asked. With reports from Dennis Somos and Audrye Malayu, Inquirer Mindanao

RP peacekeeper caught with bullets at Singapore airport

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT of the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor almost did not make it to their destination after one of its members was briefly detained in Singapore when five bullets were discovered in her hand-carried luggage.

Maricelita de la Cruz was held by the Singapore State Police for investigation, according to documents obtained by the Inquirer.

The 30-year-UN Peacekeeping contingent from the PNP left Manila on Oct. 14 via Singapore Airlines flight SQ 72.

They were to take a connecting flight from Singapore's Changi airport to Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia and on to East Timor.

According to the documents, the group informed Singaporean authorities that they will not continue on to East Timor if De la Cruz could not be allowed to leave with them.

Authorities cleared De la Cruz for travel last as the airline was preparing for all the members of the UN Peacekeeping force to be offloaded from their connecting flight.

The Singapore police confiscated the bullets.

The entire incident delayed the connecting flight out of Singapore for 11 minutes.

Government sees what is deemed as a security breach at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, as well as the inconvenience the delay brought to other passengers, the airline promptly brought the incident to the attention of the PNP Aviation Security Group (ASG).

The airline informed the ASG that there had been several instances where passengers from Manila undergoing security check for their connecting flights at the Singapore airport had been caught with five bullets or shells in their possession.

The ASG and the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) had been warning Filipino travelers against bringing bullets in their flights as international standards consider these items prohibited inside aircraft cabins.

Live bullets should be properly identified and checked in.

Despite the security lapse in De la Cruz's case, the ASG also apprehends almost on a daily basis Filipino passengers who insist on bringing empty bullets or casings with them believing that these are "swerte sa pera" (another clue could ward off evil spirits or bad luck.

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OPINION

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Prying open the PCGG

EDITORIAL

POWER NOT ONLY CORRUPTS BUT APPARENTLY addles the mind too. Or how else can one explain the embarrassing display of ignorance by some of the country's top lawyers reborn President Macapagal-Arroyo recruited into her administration, like Camille Sabio, a valedictorian of the Ateneo College of Law, or Eduardo Nachura, a law professor and author of law books? Sabio, who is chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, challenged the authority of the Senate to make him testify on matters related to his office. Nachura, as the solicitor general, defended his defiance. Both harbored a stinging defeat before the Supreme Court, along with everyone else in Malacañang who had rushed to Sabio's defense.

The Senate committee on government corporations had earlier summoned Sabio and his commissioners to explain the huge losses allegedly incurred by the sequestered Philcomsat Holdings Corp. They all refused to do so, saying they were allowed by law to keep close to their chests anything related to the functions of the PCGG. They cited in particular a provision of Executive Order No. 1 which says: "No member or staff of the commission shall be required to testify or produce in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

Senators argued that the EO, which was promulgated in February 1986 under a revolutionary government, was repealed by the 1987 Constitution. They said the provision violated the principle of public accountability of all government officials and curtailed the right of Congress to conduct investigations in aid of legislation. And because it was in conflict with these constitutional provisions, that provision could no longer be considered part of the law. Legal experts, like Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., pointed out that it is basic in a democracy that any law that is inconsistent with the fundamental law is invalid even if it has not been formally repealed by the legislature.

And that is exactly how the Supreme Court ruled after Sabio questioned his arrest for ignoring a Senate subpoena ordering him to appear before the committee on government corporations. Voting unanimously, the Court upheld the Senate position that it can summon PCGG officials to testify at committee hearings. The Court said the immunity that EO 1 conferred on PCGG officials was "inconsistent with the principle of public accountability" since it put them "beyond the reach of the courts, Congress and administrative bodies." It also declared that Congress' power to investigate was "broad enough to cover officials of the Executive branch" and reaffirmed an earlier ruling that "the power of inquiry is co-extensive with the power to legislate."

With that legal issue now settled, the Filipino people will finally get a peek into the goings-on in the PCGG and the companies that are under government sequestration. Perhaps, they will get to know more about the outrageous perks and privileges being enjoyed by the commissioners and the government conferees in the boards of these corporations and come to understand how some companies have been driven close to bankruptcy. And they might come to know more about the deals being negotiated—such as the one involving the shares in San Miguel that were purchased with the excessive levy fund—before they are consummated.

In some of these companies, the people have been—or continue to be robbed—all over again. Opening them up to public scrutiny just might help stop or diminish the grand larceny.

Bamboo reed vision

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"DO NOT LOOK AT THE SEASONS THROUGH a bamboo reed," recited farmers to pinewalk counselors. But isn't this what we do with issues that range into headlines, then just as quickly retreat?

The killer floods of Ormoc City in Northern Leyte and Libon town in Southern Luzon were forgotten as storms and Quezon were swamped. Ghosts of buried rivers in Marcinkus-type shipped into the inside pages as Rapu Rapu and Guimaras bolted up front. Demolition fish catches and shrinking marine groves stands were shoved to the back burners.

In senses, everything is interconnected. So, these are not disjointed reports. Rather, these are snapshots of a resource system crumbling. Scale ecological debt, racked up by our wasteful ways. That debt has been compounded by our equally profligate economy.

"If you have a vision of the future," Prime Minister wrote, "that vision determines management of the present." Marcos' vista didn't include Hinatuan rush. But the guide-line remains valid: only minds freed from "bamboo reed" blinders can think.

Long vanished resources, however, still hide in rainbow tones. One forest cover a dozen to 18 percent. Inconvert 45 percent had a century ago. But we've not faced up to today's issues: Sea, to water-dwelling DFA Report Fellow Omenta embraces a range of adequate water supply that invites policy disaster.

Lift up your eyes, Princess Abdulkum of Thailand counsels. "Look beyond forests, grasslands and oceans to the more dangerous dimension," this Singapore newsletter notes. "Examine the systems that underpin capacity to feed our world, namely biodiversity."

Various forms of animal and plant life contain unique genes—life's building blocks. They contribute into new food products, etc. Genes from Philippine corn have been used in developing soybeans. Splicing bacteria and "human genes brought forth "insulin rice."

"God's genetic library" is packed with millions of years of evolution. Only 15 percent have scientific names. Drugs against cancers and AIDS come from tropical forest plants. "It is a world economy beyond understanding and valuable beyond measure."

But as habitats shrink, species disappear, like the flowerpecker (*Dicaeum quadricolor*) or giant clams. They vanish with their genes. Increasing "keystone" species, Oxford University's Norman Myers warns, triggers "domino effects." As genes crumble, the web of life unravels, destabilizes, then in ever greater speed.

Problems like rice biologist, citizen, etc. are worrisome. But solutions can correct them. In contrast, bio-diversity loss is irreversible. Do these that evil? Who cares? Not us social bees-obliteration. Extinction is forever.

Few of us think there or four generations ahead. Yet, damage is dynamited coral reefs or degraded forests cannot be undone in a generation, let alone by changing constitutions. Pending tomorrow re-searches today is duly.

But, perhaps, we can grasp this "genetic library" issues off little-understood options for our grandchildren. So, "the optimum number of species to be preserved should be the maximum number we're able to conserve."

The study "Corruption, Poverty and the Loss of Biological Treasures in the Philippines" stresses the link between the country's poor soil plant and animal resources now under threat. Written by Macdoni University's Herb Thomson, it states:

"Such a piecemeal approach that calls upon specialized public opinion at a leader to read the devastation is supremely misguided. (The problem) is not simply a function of 'voters' individuals, but social relationships that prevent these types to gain and utilize power ... With a corrupt and weakening regime its powers, there is no possibility that the resources essential to solving both problems will occur."

More than 70 percent of members of laws on security of tenure are not new. But reforms need to advance rapidly, particularly in the poorer areas. General Mendonez, Ramon Magsaysay and the Confederate, "Court protection and anti-seeking, detrimental to the poor must be halted."

The role of power (corruption) over vast commercial matters controls resources, private person of projects, distribution and access to capital, he notes. It "interferes the environment with the relationships of class power ... Profusion of poverty and biological disappearance (well) persist) until "people power" confronts this unequal power of classes."

Like governments, ecosystems can break down, not only "under a mighty blast but also at the flick of a butterfly's wing." A minor event can become monumental by a corrupt political ill bills, or bogging of deep forested hillsides—story start a chain reaction that can lead to social upheaval.

Pendant: Mangingil Arroyo and other "leaders" cannot solve problems of poverty and biological disappearance until "people power" overcomes the unequal 'power' of classes within the Philippines, Thomson warns. To curb the corruptive power of individuals, and more so the corruption of class power will require pain-"substantial social and economic dislocation."

Thomson, however, asserts that Filipinos have a "comparative advantage." And what is that? The numerous, broad-based civil society organizations. "People power" remains a power here for reform.

In our ecological wasteland, when all is said and done, it is the ordinary citizen who provides hope. "If you keep green boughs of hope in your heart," the Chinese say "the singing bird will come."

***

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Putin's Russia

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE FEARLESS INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST ANNA POLITkovskaya is the 13th journalist killed in Russia since the former KGB agent Vladimir Putin came to power.

Critical journalists facing hard times in Putin's hostile society, but it is news that it usually becomes more dangerous to shine the spotlight on Russia's power elite, whether politics or economics. The American Committee for the Protection of Journalists ranks Russia as one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

Lyudmila Alexeyeva, one of Russia's foremost human rights activists and leader of the Helsinki Committee in Moscow, is in no doubt that the murder of Politkovskaya was politically motivated. She exposed the crimes of the state, and had to be silenced, our witnesses, who does and believes the murder will be solved.

Neither do we. Not in Putin's Russia. Torbjorn Jagg (Oslo, Norway)

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Hope springs infernal

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

COMING HOME FROM THE UNITED STATES a couple of weeks ago, I got to talking on the plane with a flight attendant who said he was lucky his job allowed him to go to San Francisco practically daily. He only lived there now, working as a registered nurse in one of the hospitals and was doing quite well, he said the kids were still in the Philippines, but they are would probably be migrating to the United States soon. His youngest kid, who was finishing high school then, would probably be doing college in America.

He himself wasn't doing so badly here but what could he do? The long-distance marriage was taking its toll on family. Someone had to go to, and it wasn't likely going to be his wife. It wasn't just that she's married here and had a town-owned job, it was that she opened doors in new areas. She represented the future, especially for the kids. He represented only the past. Or a present that was going nowhere.

I knew somebody else who was in the same boat. More than my flight attendant friend, he was in even lower-paid here, having become by dint of pluck and hard work a well-known reporter for one of the biggest networks in the country. He married a few years ago, and his wife also managed to land a well-paying job as a nurse in the US West Coast. She left for it last year. The new marriage hanging in the balance, the guy decided after much hand-wringing to follow her and plunge into the unknown. The unknown has proven less than rewarding, and he has been known to communicate his frustration and loneliness to friends here during his dark nights of the soul.

Before I left the United States a couple of weeks ago, some of my friends who were there and avoided them asked me to call them to know. In what I thought of Filipinos like them who did so. As far as they knew, they said, one complication had added their duties. I replied that complication is not necessarily a bad thing.

On one hand, I could understand the pull that America in particular exerted on Filipinos and the push that sent them there. Both were irresistible forces, this push alone in recent years. Increasing even more pressure for the pull. The utter incompetence of the country and the blatant impoverishment of the soul as much as—if not more so than—becoming a nation of clowns and murderers, if not haven't done so already—of the body were driving people crazy.

Quite apart from that, I said, I was impressed by the nature in which Filipinos abroad like my friends had their hearts cold set on trying to help improve the land of their birth. At least they were not among those who were happy to see the back of the Philippines, especially these days. Of course, I said, I wasn't impressed by the attitude of those who figured they should be listened to because they knew better or they were coming from a "superior position." I had met those types, too, and they had always reminded me of Oscar Wilde's brilliant aphorism that a little learning is a dangerous thing. And of course, I added, didn't know if the Filipinos abroad who were still deeply concerned about the future of the Philippines were the teeming majority or merely the vocal minority.

On the other hand, I said, I was also deeply fazed by the depth and breadth of the exodus of Filipinos abroad. As the years more than was in between even people I never imagined would dream of leaving are not just dreaming as but are doing so, even as we speak. The last straw almost are just an infinitesimal fraction of it. I can't imagine, as can not blame some of them? Pessimism is the better part of valor, escape is the better part of standing your ground.

But more than this, I am fazed by the impact the idea of being able to migrate abroad is having on the country. That is the far greater worry more than the sheer number, alarming enough as it is, of Filipinos actually migrating abroad.

I say believe the Pulse Asia survey that says a third of the population now wants to leave the country, as compared to 19 percent two or three years ago. I personally think it's more, if not just a question of wishing to leave quite apart from having the ability to leave. Most Filipinos would think nothing of living abroad, especially in the United States, if only they could, or if the US Embassy would only give them visas. Most others would think nothing of commuting OFWs, if only they could land overseas abroad, or if they had anything left to sell to be able to apply for it.

But the possibility, or hope, or dream of being able to live and/or work abroad is there, and that is the most immediate threat to, or it is serving presently the same function the song, "The Impossible Dream," did for so many years ago on the road to Edsa. It goads us, flails at us, even tempts us, until in clinging to a vision, unexplained as it may be, we can also do. Have done reading being able to leave for abroad is a possibility; more than a possibility, it is a hope; more than a hope, it is a dream, and possibilities, hopes and dreams judge deeper in the mind than anything the here and now can offer. Often, they're the here and now's escapes.

Which is the real danger. I half-suspect the so-called indifference of the Filipino today owes to this as much as to the absence of a "good" to push against the Arroyo govern's stench. The possibility, hope, or dream of living able to live and work abroad may serve this bad during Marcos' time. Certainly it wasn't this all-consuming. Today people seem willing to tolerate cheating, lying and sheer evil—and killing to boot, Jovenair Bory can attest—as long as the country is at least the trying. Or at least less-deducting, hope springs eternal.

Hope springs infernal.

Suspension is part of the process

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Rolando Olivares-Constantino

GO TO OTHER PEERS' CHANGED CASES. Or... appeal in the recent controversy involving Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio. He has not yet formally convened his guild and companion. He was newly named by the Department of Economy and Local Government spokesperson to do so? Hey... This is an easy question to ask for lawyer-lawmakers. Cook would be the best to provide evidence of misfeasance or other qualms a local executive... Previously suspended or removed is how terrorism should be fashioned and to restore that sentiment do administrative duty three-fold.

* * *

Many and all the members of the six created cities are accused of having kept about employment records. Also, allegedly deliberately like any governments of hundreds of millions of pesos. His accusers, led by former councilor Roberto Bellante, claim they have all the documents to prove their charges. Smaller sum, but the principal accuser will have duty day in court if the newly-appointed prosecutor is...and if Duay turns out to be innocent, he will be allowed to return to office.

* * *

The problem is that Duay considers himself above the law, having been entrenched for 20 years and feeling confident that his dynasty will outlive Bataan for the next 200 years. He not only appointed his wife as mayor but also retained power by seeking a TRO from the court, he has also been called himself in his brand new city hall to re-Tin appointment. And by former President Cory Aquino's order, he is also a member of the board behind Duay, trying public servants. The case is kept in Manila.

The BALOD move has been executed as impulsive and as illegal as Duay does not intend to provide any more was usually debated, the opposition quieted down by creating bewilderment. Though as members fight against the people's tenacity, they seem unable to find the right points of Charter change. Now they have found a new issue relative to Bataan's suspension. Maybe, real congregation.

* * *

But all this does not negate the fact that there is due process and Duay dealing with it head-off.

Yunus: 'Poor women are good credit risk'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOUNDATION (RMAF) is no Grand Old Lady at 50th years after the Community Leadership. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, in this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner. The RMAF was 22 years ahead of the Nobel in recognizing Yunus' work among the poor.

The Dalai Lama received his RM award thirty Nobel, recalled in 1989, 30 years before he Nobel in 1989. Marlene Dumas got her RM award in 1962. Yunus' award was in 1994.

This means that late, the RMAF of the Philippines is particular, it not behind—it is the best way ahead—by recognizing its own home-grown heroes and, yes, long before their names have become international stars.

Yunus not only 43 others he received his RM award in 1994, earned the youngest at RMAF's roster of laureates. Now there is an RM award for Emerging Leadership for those below or on the dawn of 40. Yunus was quite young when he won the RM, at that time. Section Grameen Banking (microcredit) for the poor was not yet a byword. The year when Yunus said in 1984.

Yunus' story, which you have the measure of this prestigious foundation could neuter a small office in his region, which has reached very many 130,000 as a population of more than 50 million. (As of July 2006, the population is 147.3 million—Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year 2006.) Yunus' story is the Grameen Banking along with its founding me.

Because of the Nobel Peace Prize, Yunus will surely be granted very often these days, featured in, quoted. His words and deeds will be discussed.

Yunus' story is the story of the poor themselves, and in 2006. Do we recognize a glimmer of the grandeur-nobleness?

No a matter of social science. I could not find the vocabulary for what I learned. There is a time to applying the knowledge of existing methodologies, a appeared modules. I command to get circling in on the knowledge that are present in the discipline of social science a replete with permissions and make-believe terms ...

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* * *

Complainants were present

ACCORDING TO NEWSREPORTS, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez claimed in a press conference that the complainants, including Rhea Bautista and Bantay Kalikasan, "boycotted" the hearings that were conducted by the investigating panel on the Mega Pacific Consortium.

It would have been quite easy for the Ombudsman to first check the records of the proceedings of the panel before she made that claim. Khushpure and Bantay Kalikasan did not "boycott the proceedings. In fact, for at least the first three hearings, I was present as counsel and representative of Khushpure and Bantay Kalikasan. This fact was expressly admitted even in the very resolution of Sept. 20, 2006 signed by the Ombudsman herself. I was no longer able to attend the subsequent hearings because by then I had to be confined in the hospital.

In any event, during the initial hearings, I raised before the investigating panel one crucial matter—the question why the Office of the Ombudsman, through the investigating panel, would call to reinvigorate its dead. Justice already established in the decision of the Supreme Court of Jan. 13, 2004. The investigating panel never answered that question.

—**EMILIO C. CAPULONG JR.,**
counsel, Khushpure
and Bantay Kalikasan,
Acacia Lane, Mandaluyong City

PRC says sorry for slip on Bicol University

RE: APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISTAKE which appeared in the Performance of Schools and List of Examinees in the August 2006 Physician Licensure Examination that was published by the Professional Regulation Commission in the October last Aug. 19. The announcement listed Bicol University with no reporting average in the examination. On Sept. 13, 2006, BU Secretary Cabredo pointed out in a letter to the Dean that Bicol University does not offer a course in medicine.

The data provided by this commission were based on school codes indicated in the application forms submitted by the examinees. Any discrepancy in the list was due to the misreading of school codes by the examinees themselves in their application forms. It was entirely unintentional on the part of the commission.

Two examinees from the Bicol Christian College of Medicines indicated the school code of Bicol University (Sch. Code—07 04) in their application forms. The victims/examinees have been informed by this commission through appropriate means to correct their school code. We have also advised the two examinees to secure a certification from the Bicol Christian College of Medicines that they are indeed graduates of the school.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by this error.

—**GEORGE TRIPON ROMERO,**
chair, Professional Regulation
Commission, 5 Ilaya Street cor.
S. Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila

Excellent proposal for improving education system

ALLOW ME, A RETIRED QUEZON City high school principal, to congratulate Asiecris Sabaquella for his excellent proposal to make education a national priority (PDI, 9/25/06).

I totally and passionately agree with his observation that "something is amiss" when all the billions of pesos that have been poured into all kinds of initiatives in education have had very little impact on the country's quality of education, and all the parties in situations have never really worked together on a common goal, thus failing to make a systemwide impact on a national scale.

His very laudable and practical proposal for everyone involved in education—teachers in the public or private sector—to seriously consider working together over a period of five years on a common goal (1) that will focus on measurable performance; (2) that everyone— stakeholders, school administrators, teachers, parents, barangay officials and the business sector—will understand and readily grasp; (3) that is doable and can be achieved with success; and (4) that motivates and galvanizes everyone into action.

His proposed goal—to bring up the national average test results from 27 percent to 75 percent in five years...is certainly achievable and doable.

As for the four components of his proposal, all of them are necessary. But from my experience, the most important is the cooperation of the primary stakeholders, the school administration, the teachers and the parents of students.

—**CONSUELO D. JESUS,**
38 Ilpha Road, Ilpha Village,
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

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LETTERS

Barangay ignored in the issuance of 'sign permit'

TYPHOON MILENYO LEFT Metro Manila in disarray largely because of the fallen billboards. The question now is whether to totally ban billboards or to merely regulate them.

As for Bush as July 2004, we in Barangay Wack Wack Greenhills East had earnestly taken the initiative of regulating billboard display. We enacted on July 22, 2004 a barangay ordinance prescribing "Guidelines in the Grant of Barangay Clearances for Billboards, Signs, Signboards and Advertisements." This ordinance was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Mandaluyong on Sept. 29, 2004. Specifically, the ordinance sought to regulate the sizes, height, material and location, among others, of signs and billboards.

It is unfortunate though that despite the barangay's earnest efforts to regulate billboards, Mayor Reynaldo Cornelio II has ignored the barangay ordinance and still allowed the issuance of a "sign permit" on June 15, 2006 to BC Manila Corp. for the installation of an eight-story high billboard right on Edsa despite the barangay's denial and objection. The barangay denied BC Manila's application for sign permit because the billboard plan exceeded the allowable dimension prescribed by our ordinance and is proposed on the same site that is a blackspot, causing traffic congestion and accidents. BC Manila applied not only once or twice, but three times—and each time, the barangay denied its application.

We find it therefore strange that Mayor Cornelio and the concerned city hall officials still issued the sign permit to the firm.

—**MARCIES V. ROCES,**
barangay chair,
Wack Wack Greenhills East,
Mandaluyong City

Quiambao welcomes Citra probe

ALLOW ME TO CLARIFY THE facts and shed light on the issues raised in the news item titled "House probes missing P344.M Skyway funds." (PDI, 9/25/06).

The claims about "missing funds" during my tenure as chief executive officer of Citra Corp. are baseless. They are malicious attempts to cast doubt on my credibility and integrity, initiated by certain quarters pushing their own interests. Such and many untrue spout at Citra during my tenure was properly booked, audited and approved by shareholders.

The facts as presented by Representatives Rufus Rodriguez and Juan Miguel Zubiri are misleading. Citra owed $1.8 million to Steelcor, a subsidiary that I do not deny I am associated with. The funds in question were approved following appropriate corporate auditing procedures. All the funds in question were routed through inter-corporate business deals and no funds were advanced to me personally, as insinuated by Rodriguez and Zubiri.

I welcome the call for a probe on the Citra funds. Although Citra is a privately owned company I, also, welcome the move of Rodriguez and Zubiri for an independent house investigation.

I believe that Rodriguez and my detractors' actions are a reaction to my advocacy for transparency and good governance in the PRCC. As early as 2004, I have remarked, on a personal basis, for a due study review by the government of the PRCC franchise, which is excessively disadvantageous to the public. I called on government officials to level the playing field and allow competitive public bidding for the franchise, and that the PRCC should refrain from making negotiated deals with other private entities with PRCC contracts.

Furthermore, I called attention to the "focus" of some members of Congress toward the PRCC Guarantee. As it, the PRCC is already in default of about P1 billion in debts, and that the PRCC has failed in its contractual obligation to reimburse the Columbia Lucena network and the Angeles-Carmen tracks.

I would suggest that Rodriguez and company concentrate more on the issues regarding the renewal of the PRCC franchise and its obligations rather than on leading a personal vendetta against me. They are mandated by the Filipino people who voted them to office to protect the best interests of the public first and foremost. There are the COA and Neda reports; there are serious issues independent groups both from government and the private sector; there are tons of investigative news reports. All urge our lawmakers to carefully review, scrutinize and evaluate the PRCC franchise for the benefit of the public.

I believe that in the end, the truth will speak for itself, and that my detractors, who are well-called and well-financed for a smear campaign against me, will be unmasked.

—**CESAR T. QUIAMBAO,**
founding member,
Infrastructure Board,
Intl. 1703 Raffles Corporate
Center, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Human error caused accident

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER of Ishel Hinundo on the accident that killed seven people in Pampanga. (PDI, 8/30/06).

Edilberto C. Olibario, district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways-Camarines Sur, reported that his office has investigated the accident site in Sabang, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur. Contrary to the allegation that it is poorly maintained, the pavement there is in good condition. However, to remove public safety, additional traffic signages have been installed.

Officials also said that based on the report of the Philippine National Police dated Aug. 31, the main cause of the accident was human error.

—**ELIZABETH B. PEORES,**
officer in charge-chief,
Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works
and Highways, Manila

Why are they afraid to bring the issue of People's Initiative to the Filipino people?

1 *There is no truth to claims* by certain self-interested quarters that the new Constitution will reduce the powers of the Supreme Court as defined by the 1987 Constitution. Absolutely no truth. It is not commonsensical to antagonize the Supreme Court.

2 *There is no definite legal doctrine* on the difference between amendment and revision. Even if there is and the People's Initiative can propose only amendments, the ***proposal to shift to a parliamentary system—resulting in the fusion of the Legislative and Executive branches of government—is an amendment and not a revision***.

3 *It has been said that only* a Constitutional Convention or a Constituent Assembly of Senators and Congressmen can revise the Constitution. Yet the Senators and Congressmen are only Representatives or Agents of the people. It is therefore clear that the people themselves—the Sovereign Filipino People—as the Principals can by themselves amend or revise the Constitution by direct action—the People's Initiative.

4 *The 6.3 million signatures* verified by Comelec registrars nationwide, in every province and congressional district in support of the People's Initiative petition, constitute a great number of Filipinos in this debate on Charter amendments. The number far exceeds the minimum constitutional requirement of 12 percent of registered voters nationwide for the initiative to prosper.

5 *The figure also confirms* the steady mounting increase—periodically tracked by public opinion surveys—in the Filipino people's support for the shift to a parliamentary system of government. It was 10 percent last year. By September this year, the figure jumped to 48 percent. Now it has exceeded 52 percent. Those for People's Initiative number 48 percent; for Constituent Assembly 28 percent; and for Constitutional Convention, favored by Senators, only 22 percent.

6 *This growing support* sends an unmistakable message: ***Filipinos are fed up with the presidential system and the political culture of negative politics*** that it has bred. They are fed up with the constant fighting among Senators and Congressmen, the Senate's failure to pass hundreds of critical laws, and the unending and often wild attacks by Senators on the President. Let's put an end to this democracy of deadlock, an end to negative and destructive politics.

7 *Charter reform is the last* remaining hope of the nation to bring about a new political system and make the country stable at home, competitive abroad, and respected in the community of nations.

8 *The Comelec's dismissal* of the petition was anchored on a non-existing doctrine because the Santiago ruling is only an opinion applicable only to the Delfin and Pirma cases of 1997 and not to the present *Sigaw ng Bayan* or any other People's Initiative petition.

9 *Since there are clashing* views on Charter reform and the People's Initiative to amend the Constitution, then ***why don't we let the Filipino people decide the issue once and for all***? Indeed, why are the opposition, the habitual critics, the spokesmen of the status quo, afraid to bring the issue to a nationwide plebiscite—for a direct vote by the Filipino people? Why are they raising technicalities at the Comelec and at the Supreme Court to prevent Charter reform from reaching the people and being decided by the people once and for all?

10 *Let us call* a national plebiscite—and let the Filipino people themselves decide the fate of Charter reform. Let them vote "Yes" or "No" on this historic amendment—the shift from a bicameral presidential to a unicameral parliamentary government.

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[author block illegible]

Across the NATION

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Duterte names mayor in drug trade

DAVAO CITY—MAYOR RODRIGO DUTERTE HAS tagged Parang, Maguindanao Mayor Abo Talib and his wife as illegal drug operators who managed to smuggle in to this city some P1.5 million worth of shabu but were freed by two arresting officers.

The two arresting policemen failed to immediately report their findings and let go of the vehicle, an Innova van, that carried the illegal drugs. The incident happened several months ago, Duterte said.

Abo declared the allegations.

Duterte revealed this information before the City Council session on Tuesday, after he was summoned—for the first time in Mayor's—to shed light on the reported illegal drug trade in the city.

Pablito Ana is also cited in the...

Duterte said Wilfredo Villanueva, the Southern Mindanao chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Senior Supt. Cornelio Cruz, city police chief...

Duterte also mentioned several other names allegedly involved in the illegal drugs trade and are operating in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Marawi, Cotabato and Isulan.

Duterte said Ide said he submitted the so-called "Ide drug group"...

He also named Leo Francisco, another suspected drug lord who could...

Duterte said Francisco made a...

BIG RIDERS
Two children playing with their toy cars are drawn by their curiosity to a bus, but dangerously close, to a row of motorcycles parked in downtown Baguio City.

Peace panel told: Study Cordillera experience

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT PEACE negotiators discussing peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were advised to look first at how ancestral land titles have been processed in the Cordillera before they proceed, regional officials said on Tuesday.

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) refuses to legitimize Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) and Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) because of a rule that only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources can process land titles, Leyzie Lolong Catacutan-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director, said.

Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, and Secretary Silvestre Afable, the government's lead negotiator, will need to be apprised about this problem in the bureaucracy before he pursues a stage in the negotiations, Lolong said at a meeting the NCIP's chairs in ancestral lands in their territories.

Killip said the process of implementing the land claims of MILF might encounter the same difficulty because of the LRA guidelines.

Gallardo said the NCIP and LRA have started talks to harmonize their rules, but the problem has already stalled 38 CADTs and 98 CALTs covering 835,165 hectares in the country. These titles were processed between 2002 and 2005.

The CADTs are more expansive because these titles refer to communal properties, forests and waterways that are at times larger than the political boundaries of their host towns.

The CADTs refer to homelands but processing these entails titles but fewer more contentious than the ancestral domain claims.

Baguio CALTs, for example, still seem to legitimize hectares of a provision in the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) that exempts the summer capital from its coverage, except for land claims already recognized by the 1920 and by local courts. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Neda exec says Cordillera dropout rate high despite free education

BAGUIO CITY—ONLY ONE OF THREE STUdents in the Cordillera is expected to finish primary education despite efforts by the government to provide free education and alleviate poverty, an official of the National Economic and Development Authority said.

Leon Rosario, assistant Neda director in Cordillera, said the regional poverty situation projects less than 70 percent of elementary students in the region would finish Grade 6.

High dropout rates have been noted in public elementary schools in the region, he said. "This situation is unique in the region...considering that education is free," he said.

He said the national government has vowed to give children access to education under its commitment to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

One factor that leads to a high dropout rate among schoolchildren in the region is farm work. Rosario said some parents ask their children to help till their farms, making the children miss classes.

He said accessibility is another factor because many villages in the Cordillera have no roads.

In an earlier interview, Benito Tumamao, Department of Education director in the Cordillera, said migration of families looking for better economic opportunities outside the Cordillera is a major factor to the decline of enrollment in public elementary and high schools in the region.

Tumamao said some parents and teachers have cited poverty as the main reason their children quit school. Teachers also noted that some children leave school as they are forced to work to augment their families' income.

Tumamao said the dropout rate in the elementary level in the Cordillera is 7 percent, while that in public high schools is 12 to 13 percent.

While the probability of completing primary education is low among the Cordillera youth, Tumamao said they hope they can achieve a 99 percent literacy rate for the region by 2015. Reuben Cichon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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4 Cebu customs execs face probe

By Johnes N. Balandan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AT LEAST FOUR HIGH-RANKING officials of the Bureau of Customs in Cebu face investigation for their alleged involvement in the release of four luxury vehicles forfeited earlier by the government to favor of the government.

Customs District Collector Ricardo Belmonte presented to...

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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Sorsogon seeks help to rebuild

By Bobby Lobaton
Sorsogon City

INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 10-day festivities showcasing its culture and traditions, Sorsogon province marked its 112th foundation anniversary on Tuesday with austere ceremonies.

It was a somberking holiday in the province by virtue of Republic Act No. 7580, which declared Sorsogon independent from Albay.

During a thanksgiving Mass he officiated, Msgr. Francisco Monje, who heads the Sorsogonthon festival committee, said funds for the event would be used to help the schoolchildren instead. The festival is celebrated to mark the province's foundation.

At least 4,000 schoolchildren in the province were affected by Typhoon "Milenyo." An city division office of the Department of Education reported. Milenyo, which struck Sorsogon and neighboring areas, including Metro Manila, last month, was the worst typhoon to have hit the province during the past 30 years.

"Many of these children have stopped going to school since they lost their school supplies and uniforms," Monje said.

The priest appealed to the public, as well as the festival sponsors, for support.

Damage

On Monday, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that Milenyo brought P38.1.4 million in damages to agriculture, and P333.6 million to infrastructure. Local government and civil defense officials said total damages amounted to more than P2 billion.

Initially, damage to the entire province was placed at P2.2 billion, including P1.1 billion in housing. Agriculture suffered damage worth P656.2 million; school facilities, P82 million; and infrastructure, P306 million.

Gov. Raul Lee said the government had set aside a council that would consolidate the rehabilitation plans of various offices and local governments.

Power has been restored to the province after removing said Sorsogon Electric Cooperative general manager Ukester Ilas.

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, the governor's wife, said a Filipino American community in Washington led by Nancy Medina, Imago Magazine publisher, had responded to her appeals for help.

She aired a similar call to Japan where she was invited by the United Nations-Habitat for Humanity and received assurances of at least P500,000 assistance.

The mayor could undoubtedly behas President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited the province after Milenyo battered the city. Sorsogon has been aspiring to become one of the

(TOP) Residents of Barangay Tabing, Pilar Jr.in in Sorsogon City receive usable materials from their homes levelled by the strong winds of Typhoon "Milenyo." At left, Sorsogon continues to rise from Milenyo's destruction.

desert cities in the country.

Lee said that after five years of land work and people-centered governance, the city had made headway in efforts to be among the top cities. But with the destruction caused by Milenyo, "the city is back to square one," she said.

While thanking the President for her help, Governor Lee urged his countrymate to "be resolute in the face of adversity." It is one such time when the province needs the most number of hands that could work together to help heal and rebuild, he said.

For those who would like to help, call Msgr. Francisco Monje, chair of the Sorsogonthon Foundation Inc. at 09155080976 or Dad Steve Milanes(CC) debet Lee 09065534 6050 or SOS c/o Councilor Dave Dumon 09186472833.

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Sountex

More than P1B needed for rehabilitation of province

A MAN runs in ankle-deep water as he passes a ramshackle structure that crashed through the side of the Sorsogon Capitol in Sorsogon City at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo."

THE PROVINCIAL DISASTER COORDINating Council (PDCC) of Sorsogon, in its update yesterday, said total damages to agriculture was P653.6 million; infrastructure, P346.8 million; social, P174.8 million; houses, P422.5 million; and health, P56.2 million.

Loss to rehabilitate agriculture is P656.6 million, social, P39.2 million, and infrastructure, P348.9 million, or a total of P1.3 billion, the PDCC added.

Sen. Richard Gordon, national chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, and US Ambassador Francis A. Ricciardy will lead the relief goods distribution today, the local Red Cross here said.

At least 1,309 families will receive food and nonfood assistance, said PRRC administrator Salvador Montenito.

PRRC regional director Ben Augustin said the US government had extended assistance to 5,000 families, majority of them from Sorsogon, and the others for victims in Albay and Quezon.

Montenito said PRRC was concentrating on food and nonfood needs for the victims in coordination with the local government units.

Typhoon victims from Sorsogon City have been herded at the Bulusan Sports Complex, where the city government had set up four large tents provided by the United Nations Children's Fund.

Carmen Hubilla of the City Social Welfare Office said 109 families, composed of 1,324 persons, are presently housed in the temporary shelter.

She said the city government was compelled to maintain the temporary shelter since the victims/evacuees returned their houses.

But there is no food for shelter assistance.

All of them were appealing to the government for shelter assistance, because they could not move.

Irma Antonillo, a member of town, said her husband had been trying to rebuild their house from salvaged material but he had fallen ill.

"Three of my children returned their safety because they had to attend classes and help their father," she said.

Elsa Legaspino of Barangay Tugos said they didn't see any hope of getting back to normal life as long as their house had not been repaired.

Legaspino avowed that the repair was beyond their means, as her income from several jobs was just enough for their daily needs.

Bobby G. Lobaton

S.O.S. SORSOGON

One of the most distinguished citizens of Sorsogon, Sorsogon, JOSE MA. A. OLBES contributed P100,000 to the unfortunate victims of "Milenyo." He responded to the appeal of S.O.S. SORSOGON

which has been targeting sympathizers of the storm victims since it hit Sorsogon last September 27. Mr. Olbes, married to Chibi Dreyfus, has been living in Spain, but resides now in Makati. Mr. Olbes' check brings up the total money received from sympathizers to P1,262,778.

These include P5,000 from an anonymous lady from Ormoc, P10,000 from Holy Garden of Angels and 500 pieces of bath soap from Body Alterjen.

Please keep them coming—Call Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9980, Amorena Grajo Uranza, 928-0844 or 513-6818 and Fr. Gerard Devoza at 0918-6998925. Cash or checks may be deposited at any branch of Bank of the Philippine Islands Account number 0011168781.

Barangay families are now being helped by volunteers in Sorsogon under the directions of Fr. Gerard Devoza and Councilor David Duran to rebuild their houses.

Schools are now being assessed by GMA Kapuso Fund and Habitat for Humanism.

Watch this space Monday, Wednesday and Friday for reports on S.O.S. Sorsogon

Guimaras folk say they're told to cover up oil

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS —Residents hired by Petron Corp. to clean the oil sludge from the western Guimaras Island said they have been instructed by employees of the oil firm to cover up signs of the oil sludge from the inspection teams and visitors.

"They tell us to cover the oil-stained stones and rocks with sand when there are visitors coming," a 54-year-old resident of Barangay Inisio told the Inquirer. He asked not to be identified for fear of losing his work in the clean-up operations.

However, Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan denied the allegation.

"I don't know where this is coming from. It makes no sense for us to do that because if anyone would say that there's still bunker fuel in a particular area, we would be forced to return and clean it again," Tan told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

He said even if they have the cleanup area cleared of all debris, the government's multi-agency inspection team would give the final assessment.

The residents said the instructions came from Petron employees acting as team leaders for the daily cleanup and are in charge of delivering the payroll.

Nueve Valencia Mayor Cleofe Gonzaga and Julian Amador, environment regional director, said they have received similar information from residents in the area.

The two officials said they have tallied Petron to investigate the reports.

Another Inisio resident, 12-year-old Shaleen Cagayon, said the bunker fuel is still in many areas and could be found a few inches under the sand in the shoreline.

A Shoreline Project Liaison Guimaras report dated Oct. 15 said the cleanup is completed in 15 areas in Sibunag and Nueva Valencia towns.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council also declared complete the physical cleanup of areas in Guimaras hit by the oil spill. It said they are now in the rehabilitation phase.

But residents and officials have belied the announcement.

"If you and the residents, they will tell you the truth: there is still a need for more cleanup," Gonzaga told the Inquirer. He said the cleanup operations of the oil firm covered only the populated areas.

The residents of Inisio have also complained about the reduction of the number of workers being hired in the cleanup.

In a two-page letter dated Oct. 14, barangay officials led by Barangay Capt. Oliva Evangelista, said only a few of the residents selected on the clean up from Wednesday to Saturday last week.

Petron personnel were quoted as telling residents the week there were reduced because the cleanup operations are already complete and the work is now focused on the collection and transport of sacks of contaminated debris.

Tan said it was logical for Petron to reduce the workforce because the work was "winding down."

He said the residents involved in the clean up would be provided with an alternative source of livelihood, which will be implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

A CHILD stands by a bamboo fence that separates his family's farm from others in the village of Bakawan in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras as the Petron oil spill changed many villagers' livelihood from fishing to cleaning up the oil sludge.

2 Czech experts in town to help clean up spill

By Hazel P. Villa and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—TWO CZECHOSlovakian experts on bioremediation arrived in Guimaras on Oct. 16 to help in the ongoing cleanup of the Aug. 11 Petron oil spill.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office said the experts, Jakub Kaun and Petra Zadrova from the Czech Republic, have extensive experience dealing with bioremediation of oil and water contaminated with hydrocarbons in various European and Asian countries.

The DENR defines bioremediation as any process that uses microorganisms, such as bacteria, to return the environment altered by contaminants to its original condition.

Julian Amador, DENR regional executive director, said the experts would be in Guimaras and Oct 21 to evaluate the situation and identify areas where bioremediation will be implemented.

The experts conducted a two-day technical orientation for DENR personnel this week.

Amador said they plan to introduce indigenous bacteria with the help of scientists from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec).

The bacteria will be tested for a month before they are introduced in the affected areas, Amador said.

The use of bioremediation was one of the options in the cleanup of the shoreline identified by scientists.

The DENR said the team's report will be submitted to Malacañang.

Amador said they plan to train experts to help in the bioremediation process although the University of the Philippines is in the process of identifying the appropriate strain of microorganism that would be used.

Dr. Gilda Fe, chief senior aquaculture specialist of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), has already isolated oil-decomposing bacteria from the oil-affected areas of Guimaras.

"We are drawing plans," said Dr. Ben Tayabas, mangrove scientist and coordinator of the UP research group.

DENR exec points to Palace as Sierra Madre logging backer

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP OFFIcial of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Tagalog defended Malacañang's announcement of the temporal postponement from the management contract covering 54,648 hectares of land in the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Antonio Principe, DENR-Calabarzon regional director, accompanied chair for Timberland Inc. Project (TIPI), owned by Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ty, did not have the financial capability to undertake the multimillion-peso reforestation project as detailed in its Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA).

Principe told the provincial council that TIPI's authorized capital, as reflected in its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission, was only P1 million, with a paid-up capital of only P250,000.

"But in addition to that, Timberland submitted documents of properties in Bulacan worth P46 million in move as collateral. This was accepted by the Office of the President," he said.

Principe also noted that TIPI's original application covers a total of 57,000 hectares of forest land.

"But when it was found ... that the application would also overlap an estimated 3,000 hectares with a mining claim, the said portion was excluded," he said.

Principe also cited documents from concerned local government and barangay units alleged ly supporting TIPI's forest contract application.

He, however, made it clear that despite Malacañang's announcement of TIPI's forest management agreement, the DENR has yet to allow the company to start operating, citing the lack of required documents.

When pressed about his position on the controversial forest management project, Principe replied: "Be me, I will no longer allow it, but that's only my personal opinion."

TIPI's IFMA has long been opposed by residents and local officials of Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns.

Quezon board members have criticized Malacañang's basis for reinstating the controversial forest management project. —Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Water firm's woes over soon, says agency

THE LOCAL WATER UTILITIES Administration (LWUA) yesterday assured the public that the management it had assigned to rule over the Metro Bohol Water District (MBWD) was performing well to ensure fiscal prudence and reforms are institutionalized and that potable water was available to the city 24 hours.

Governor Jose Mari Lluch, administrator and acting board chair, made the assurance in their reports that the MBWD is in the verge of collapse.

"On the contrary, the interim board of directors and management have made substantial progress in addressing the issues at hand and at the same time improve the financial status and operational system of the Metro Bohol Water District," Jumoad said in a press statement.

Jumoad said the issues raised in the reports were actually the reasons that prompted the old MBWD board of directors to request for a full LWUA takeover.

Pedro Bertilla, MBWD interim general manager, said rumors that contrary to reports that 73 percent of the water district's 202 employees signed the petition letter sent to the Office of the President, only 42 actually affixed their signatures. Bertilla said the MBWD employees.

Bertilla also reported that operations of the MBWD and implementation of ongoing projects are proceeding smoothly.

"The news reports are working for part of a massive negative campaign professionally launched by disgruntled parties," he added.

Jumoad also explained that LWUA, under its charter, has the authority to fully or partially take over the management of any water district to protect national government investment and public interest.

Jumoad said the agency has formed a fact-finding team to validate the findings of the Commission on Audit on alleged irregular transactions of the previous board and management.

The Office of the President has been informed that the result of its investigation will be furnished the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Gov't data don't show real poverty picture, say execs

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNment's poverty statistics do not reflect the lives of indigenous Filipinos, so it has started drafting new economic indicators that would help them find and make the poor among them, according to a Malacañang official.

Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, told the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples that drafting these guidelines that will more accurately reflect the IP poor can have access to.

Killip, a former major of Baguio, Mt. Province, said complete data about indigenous Filipinos should help government understand a consistency that has thrived below its radar for nearly a century.

Leilene Cuenco-Galbello, NCIP Cordillera director, said the new poverty indicators they are crafting respond to the "inadequate tools" the government uses to measure poverty.

Real scare

She said the latest government economic report had failed to capture the true situation of indigenous Filipinos.

The Cordillera, which is home to various IP groups, showed significant improvement because it managed to reduce its poor families from 121,342 households in 1994 to 72,084 households in 2003, said Jean Kipdoh, Cordillera director of the National Statistic and Development Authority at a Monday forum at the University of the Philippines Baguio.

But the gross in outlines of economic growth that the government has recorded, based on what Cordilleran consumer and other their item in a year, have failed to illustrate why indigenous Filipinos remain poor, Galbello said.

Ancestral lands

"We develop indicators that would tell us if indigenous Filipinos have access to their ancestral lands. Do they exploit their own resources? Are they able to access education? And if they do, are they able to enjoy?" she said.

Galbello cited Bugao, Judget as the fourth poorest province in the country, until revision this year in the statistic methods removed it from the top five poorest provinces.

"The country judged Bugao poor, but they own property found this puzzling because nobody was starving in the province. They planted and consumed their own food," she said.

New rules

She said NCIP is also devising new rules that would help government safeguard its tangible and intangible heritage, such as local medicinal knowledge that can be taught in schools.

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, chair of the IPF Forum, has been pursuing research on how indigenous Cordillera knowledge can help improve the region's functional literacy.

Corpuz also heads the Baguio-based Tebtebba Foundation, a research facility that has advocated the use of indigenous language and cultural materials in Cordillera classrooms.

Galbello said the guidelines are primarily new rules that apply to indigenous Filipinos, who may not understand the applicability of modern laws, cultural adherence or technology as their basis.

The new rules could also provide better ways to introduce health benefits to these communities. —Evelyn Cadivoso, Inquirer Northern Luzon

AH-KITA sleeps beside a shrine in a street in the City of San Fernando, one of dozens roaming urban areas

Cabinet changes: Yap back to old post at DA

By Gil C. Cabacungan
Inquirer Research

Rumors of a major reshuffle in the Cabinet proved to be unfounded Wednesday as President Arroyo announced only two changes in her Cabinet.

Transportation Undersecretary Leandro Mendoza was named the new chief of the Department of Agriculture (DA), replacing Domingo Panganiban, who was appointed ambassador to Japan.

Mendoza will be replaced by Virgilio Domingo, who is now undersecretary for maritime affairs at the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Mendoza, a former chief of staff of Arroyo when she was Vice President, was appointed DA undersecretary for operations in January 2001.

Domingo, a former undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, was appointed DOTC undersecretary in 2004.

Mendoza's appointment as DA chief was welcomed by farmers' groups, which had been pushing for the appointment of a new agriculture secretary.

Mendoza's appointment was announced by Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye at a press conference in Malacañang.

Bunye said Mendoza was expected to take his oath of office before Arroyo on Thursday.

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HELLO AGAIN: In June 2005, Senator Yap said goodbye during a press conference. He was quitting, then in the tax evasion charges filed against him and his family. INQUIRER FILE

A former student of the President at the Ateneo de Manila University, Yap is expected to concurrently retain his post as head of the North Luzon "super-region," the sources said.

'I did my share'

Mendoza was appointed to the NAFC only a few months ago. Before then, he headed the Government Bona Media Group which monitors media sources and would be abolished by the President.

Panganiban sent Mr Arroyo's fourth appointee to agriculture secretary (after Leandro Mendoza, Joseph "Chel" Lorenzo and Yap) since the Second President in 2001.

"I have done my share in helping the administration. But if my best is not good enough, there is nothing we can do about it," he said.

Panganiban said that in recent conversations with Bunye, he had not talking about changes in the Cabinet may be in the offing.

But he expressed surprise at the swiftness of the changes.

The reasons in Malacañang said Mr Arroyo had gotten fed up with the Commission on Appointment imposed bypassing of Panganiban, purportedly through the efforts of opposition lawmakers.

But she still backs Panganiban enough to move him to the NAFC while continuing to look for other government posts where she can use his talents, they said.

Long relationship

The sources said Mr Arroyo had decided to cull from various facts section that removed Yap back in view of their long relationship with him starting from his membership of the National Food Authority in 2001.

The agriculture sector, which includes fish, corn and coconuts as well as fisheries and livestock, accounts for around 20 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

It is one of the top priorities of the Arroyo administration's medium-term development program, specifically in northern Luzon where billions of pesos are being spent to build roads and bridges in order to improve access to farms.

With report from Inquirer

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ARTHUR YAP WAS FIRST APPOINTED agriculture secretary on July 9, 2004. He left his post as chair of the National Food Authority and replaced Luis "Chel" Lorenzo.

In June 2005, Yap said his brother, Dominico Yap, was slapped with tax evasion charges by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for alleged failure to pay P4 million in taxes in connection with the purchase of a property in Pasig City in 1997.

According to the BIR, before Yap left the Department of Agriculture, officials of the bank licensed GMP Realty & Development Inc., understood to be property to evade paying the correct documentary stamp and withholding taxes, and ended up paying only P1,750 in taxes.

Yap was the first and highest government official to be implicated with tax evasion since the Department of Finance and the BIR started the final Tax Evaders (FATE) program in March 2005.

On June 28, 2005, then Prosecutor Sebastian Cuprosun issued subpoenas to the Yaps, subjecting them to appear before the Department of Justice on July 5 and 7 for a preliminary investigation of the case.

On June 30, Yap resigned from his post at the Department of Agriculture. "To stay on while this case is pending is a no-win situation for myself and the President I serve," he said.

Charges dismissed

On Dec. 12, despite what was touted to be among the strongest state-very filed under the FATE program, the DOJ dismissed the charges against the Yaps.

State prosecutors said the BIR had failed to present sufficient evidence to meet the 10-day period used for evasion case.

Dismissal of the tax evasion charge, Yap was reappointed to the Cabinet in December, this time as President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on job creation.

But his comeback elicited calls for him to address allegations of vote-rigging and involvement in the Fertilizer fund scam—to the purported tune of P400 million—when he was chief of the NFA.

But till then, however, Yap was appointed chief of the Presidential Management Staff in May 2006. Gil Lawrence S. Cacanindin, Inquirer Research

SC chief admits pressure on people's initiative case

The Supreme Court did not uphold Makabangay's position on their petition.

Comelec dismissed petition

The Charter change proponents had asked the Comelec to authorize the millions of signatures they said they had gathered petitioning for a shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

But the Comelec said the poll body is obliged to promulgate the operational changes that would allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in power at least up to 2010.

But the Comelec said it had no authority to take cognizance of any petition for a people's initiative until a law had been passed by Congress implementing the people's initiative system.

The poll body said the petitioners failed to comply with the so-called Santiago precedent had no legal basis and that the proposed constitutional changes involved a revision of the Constitution rather than mere amendments.

That section "cannot be achieved through a people's initiative," the Comelec said.

The Santiago precedent refers to the 1997 ruling of the Supreme Court in Santiago vs Comelec that states that Republic Act No. 6735, the law regulating the people's right of initiative, is inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution.

After the Comelec dismissed their petition on Aug. 31, Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) went to the Supreme Court. Ulap is composed of governors, mayors and other local officials.

Special session

Interviewed at the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity attended by foreign magistrates who included Canadian Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, Panganiban said the Supreme Court had scheduled a special session on the matter next week.

"We'll discuss this on the 25th, and then Thursday, and then Friday, and then Saturday, hopefully we'll come out come out with a decision," Panganiban said. The Supreme Court is going on recess from Oct. 30 to Nov. 26.

Proponents of Charter change told the tribunal that they had complied with the requirements of the law on people's initiative.

In a 97-page pleading, Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap said they met the constitutional requirement that the signatures they collected should be at least 3 percent of the total number of registered voters per congressional district.

Opponents said many of the signatures were collected under false pretenses or in exchange for cash and "goodies."

Opposition is questioning the certification of verification issued by election officers nationwide who attested to the substantial compliance by Sigaw and Ulap with the 3-percentage requirement.

'Glaring defect'

The former is also against the initiative. "The alleged initiative has been manipulated by the administration," it said.

"A glaring defect of the proposed for a people's initiative is the absence of an enabling law to implement the power to be brought to the many changes that lead to rule-rent, rather than find a distinct avenue for the expression of the true will of the people," the lawsuit said.

It also pointed out that the petition ought is tweaking of the entire Constitution, which is not within the scope of a people's initiative.

Senators have described a proposed transitory provision as a sweetener to incumbent legislators. The provision says that until the election of a regular parliament, there shall be an interim parliament that would be composed of "the incumbent members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the incumbent members of the party-list representatives and sectoral representatives."

Justices' doubts

During the Sept. 26 oral arguments before the high court, several justices openly attacked the Charter change proponents' decision to circumvent the lengthy task of the local governments in the list drafters.

The justices also raised concerns about the supposed plan of the proposed parliament to clip the power of the judiciary by citing away with the court's "extraordinary removal" jurisdiction powers to review the acts of the executive and legislature in matters of government.

Among the justices, Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez was the most passionate in her line of questioning that generally showed distrust in the people's initiative.

"Have you taken the time or not (consult) the Filipino people in the hands of 6.3 million voters who you and I do not know?" Gutierrez had told Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura after he admitted to having not signed each the names of the signatories.

Gutierrez had also questioned rebellion those who affixed their signatures on the petition underscored what they had signed "or whether their signatures are genuine."

"I have an evidence in Batangas who never asked to sign what they did not know about ... Well, this process is very doubtful, those if you do are believing me. Then that's your problem," she said.

Senate plans to probe PCGG's 20-year record

Senate said, however, that he and his colleagues would study the possibility of invoking the high court's recommendation.

"We will review the case with the Office of the Solicitor General (Antonio Eduardo Nachura). He is our lawyer. If there are grounds for filing a motion for reconsideration, we will. The high court is the arbiter of the law," said Binay, a former Senate president pro tempore.

Abonde said the PCGG would await itself of the 15-day period to file a motion. He said he was confident that the decision would not undermine the agency's campaign to appear at any inquiry before the lapse of the period.

'No other recourse'

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said there was "no other recourse" but for the PCGG officials to appear at the Senate inquiry if summoned.

But he maintained that the Palace had never banned the PCGG officials.

"The Palace did not ever ask the PCGG. We just let [it] handle the situation because it involved legal matters. It's not for us. [...] It's the court to answer that," he said.

He added: "Since we had the decision of the PCGG to invoke that, we just let the case be.

"But now that the court has decided, there is no other recourse but to abide by the decision, meaning the board to submit themselves to the Senate investigation."

In a 15-0 ruling Tuesday, the Supreme Court upheld the power of the Senate to subpoena Ermita et al., as well as executives of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), to testify at the inquiry into the purported looting of the sequestered firms it owned.

According to the tribunal, granting the PCGG "immunity" from legislative inquiry—"institutionalizes irresponsibility and unaccountability."

It ruled that EO No. 1—the law that created the PCGG in 1986 to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their cronies, and which provided that PCGG officials were exempt for any legislative probe—was repealed by the 1987 Constitution.

PCGG report card

Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and the inquiry resulting, beyond the issue involving Philcomsat to every sequestered firm since the PCGG had been established since 1986.

"Everybody knows that the PCGG has been here for the last 20 years, and it's time [the commission members] showed their report card to the public. In the interest of transparency," Gordon said in a press conference.

"I would like them now to expound on every company that they have taken over and make their report—where they made money for the government and others they lost money, and perhaps, in the process, who made money for themselves," he said.

He also said the meeting of the PCGG's 20-year performance would be the basis for the Senate recommendation on whether the commission should be abolished.

Both Gordon and Senator Ed, early Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. have filed bills seeking the PCGG's abolition, saying it had bungled the job of recovering ill-gotten wealth.

Gordon said the PCGG should be closely scrutinized because of the losses incurred in Philcomsat and other crony corporations, including the use of assets to buy cars and pay the commissioners' hefty allowances.

Entry point

"Philcomsat is the entry point for finding out whether the PCGG has been doing its job. Philcomsat mirrors the kind of performance the PCGG has been doing in a particular company," Gordon said.

He said the PCGG should report not only to President Macapagal-Arroyo but also to Congress and the people.

Pimentel said his commissioners were ordered arrested by the Senate but last month they regretfully by posting amendments to testify at the Senate inquiry.

The PCGG chair was arrested at his office, Nicos, Abonde and Contreras were also nabbed.

In response to a motion filed by the PCGG to stop the Senate probe, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order and lifted the arrest warrants on the PCGG officials.

Eager beavers

After the Supreme Court handed down its decision on Tuesday, Gordon initially wanted to have a hearing tomorrow.

But Tolentino later said he and Sen. Jose Potre Enrile had agreed that it would be time to wait and would discuss it in the regular hearings.

He said the inquiry would resume in November to give the commissioners enough time.

Enrile has been pursuing the Philcomsat issue. Philcomsat, where his daughter is a stockholder. He is the subject of a complaint lodged by former Sen. Serge Saguisag at the Senate ethics committee, for purported impropriety and conflict of interest in actively participating in the case.

Gordon said the tribunal's 15-0 decision was "a very, very loud message."

"And hopefully, there will be some humility and some repentance and acquiescence if the PCGG officials have nothing to hide. We've cut them no bar after them. We've flown to find out whether the PCGG has outlived its usefulness, or for provisions that will make them effective," he said, adding:

Protection

"But they have (about) very antagonistic position, and that's why they have gotten into this scenario."

Abonde said, however, that the Senate inquiry should be postponed by "rules" in order "to protect those attending."

He said there were "still a lot of issues" that needed to be addressed, "specifically rules governing legislative examinations" and rules on conflict of interest, even in the case of Senator Enrile.

Nevertheless, both Abonde and Nicos said they supported the high court's decision and would attend any Senate hearing on the matter if they were called.

"I, for one, have nothing to hide," Nicos said.

"We are confident that the lawyers will practice the highest form of professionalism," Abonde said.

In a statement, Cuevi said: "I have always stood for the principle of transparency and accountability. The Supreme Court decision ordering us to testify before the Senate is a golden opportunity for me to clarify my non-involvement in any of the alleged dishonest acts which happened long before my appointment as PCGG commissioner." With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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SPORTS

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Tigers bare fangs, feast on Giants

By Manong Carrillo

COCA-COLA COACH JERRY PAVIA gave Jun the dugout before the start of each game to tell his players to play in a manner that says "no one can find second with the Tigers."

After taking down defending champion Purefoods last night, Jun enough has re-enthroned Accra as the Phi Philippine Cup and has made the entire field aware of it.

Coke spoils get huge numbers from defensive leaders in its lineup, going on to set the Greater Giants to size in the second half for a 92-77 decision for its second straight victory in the eliminations round at the Araneta Coliseum.

"That has been my pep talk," Jun said. "And so much as we're underdogs (in this tournament), we go out there each and every night willing to compete."

Jill Peek led the Tigers with 19 points, but it was players like Allen Sahagyang, Chris Exciano and Jason Hinder who stepped up big time while coupled to Coca-Cola clinching its 3rd for the first time at 2-0.

Sahagyang matched his career-best with 16 points, Exciano, after a breakout game last week against Red Bull, had eight points, eight boards and five assists and Hinder chalked up his first career double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

"I believe in the future of this team," Paria added. "The talent is there."

Coke, stuck by many as a promising rebuilding boy after losing four marquee names in the off-season, has actually brought down two heavyweights in as many nights after making Red Bull bite the dust also in the same lopsided style, 105-86, Friday night.

And playing this heavyweight will not stop Jun against the Tigers are Talk N Text at the Smart Center tomorrow and the Barangay Ginebra San Miguel Thursday next week.

"Like in all of our games, what we want is to be able to stay close in the final minutes, and hope that we end up lucky again."

Paul Asiedi's career-high 18 points led the Greats, who played an terrible start of match (last coach Ryan Gregorio did not bother getting off his seat too much as Purefoods dropped to 1-1 overall).

The game was close until the end of the first half, and an alley-oop to John Arigo in the third period actually spurred the Tigers to good bouts, as they took a six-point lead into the fourth period and never turned back thereafter.

The Scores

First Game

COCA-COLA 92—Peek 19, Sahagyang 16, Morton 14, Wilson 10, Exciano 8, Mendoza 6, Arigo 6, Jones 2, Cabanos 2, Ramos 2, Pascua 2, Antonio 0.

PUREFOODS 77—Asiedi 18, Raymundo 15, Simon 10, Yap, L. 7, Wright 7, Yap, K. Castillo 9, Ramos, L. Nos. 2, 1 (Completed).

Quarters: 19-18, 42-32, 80-57, 92-77.

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Late Sports

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MANNY Pacquiao, his trainer believes, won't allow Erik Morales to go the distance.

'We'll get Erik before the sixth,' says Roach

AS FAR AS FREDDIE ROACH IS CONCERNED, Erik Morales is going down no later than the halfway point of his match against Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

"We'll get him before the sixth round," Roach told television network ABS-CBN last night.

That has been the American trainer's stand since Day One of Pacquiao's preparations for the third installment of his rivalry against the Mexican sensation, exclaimed "If Not Me."

Last night, though, Roach sounded confident, anchoring his view perhaps on the progress Pacquiao has shown in training.

Pacquiao appeared on television looking calm and fit.

However, the Grand Santos native told the station's interviewers that he was going for a win in whatever way possible.

"I'm not really going for a knockout," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "But if it will come, it will be a big bonus."

Roach, however, said Morales is going to feel the sting of Pacquiao's punches soon.

"Once he gets hit, he'll start having flashbacks," said Roach.

The American trainer was referring to the second match between the two superstar prizefighters.

Pacquiao won that bout by knocking out Morales for the first time in the Mexican's illustrious career.

It was a fitting revenge for the Filipino, who lost the initial bout between two of the world's best warriors in their weight class.

Pacquiao and Morales square off once more this 11 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, in a card that has been dubbed, "The Grand Finale." Pamela Gideon

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Olpoong

Liz sues Willie for abuse

TV host's wife says she's had enough

By DJ Yap
and Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT SEEMS THAT WILLIE REVILLAME's legal and marital woes are far from over.

Four days after his wife Florelei, the "Liz" Almero had sought the annulment of their marriage, the popular host of ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Wowowee," was accused of displaying violent behavior toward Almero and their son.

The criminal complaint was filed by Almero, 29, on Tuesday at the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

In her complaint, she charged Revillame, 45, with violating Republic Act 9262—the law protecting women and children from violence—for allegedly threatening to hurt her and their son during one of their fights.

According to her, the incident occurred on midnight of Aug. 6 inside their home at 15 Luna St., Santa Teresita Village, Old Balara in Quezon City.

Unexpected behavior

Almero said she was just asking Revillame what was wrong when he snarled hurling insults at her and throwing his arms, hitting their baby, who had been sleeping in the playpen.

The child woke up and started crying, prompting Almero to pick him up, but Revillame allegedly grabbed the baby and pushed her aside. "While holding the child on one arm, his other arm lifted the playpen and threw it away ... I was crying and begging him to give back the baby to me," Almero said.

When she approached Revillame, the latter allegedly picked up a lamp and told her, "If you don't stop, you'll get hurt." Almero said Revillame later calmed down and gave her back the baby. The TV host then packed his bags and left the house, she added.

May incident

She cited other instances in which Revillame allegedly cleaned his window side, including one incident in May in which he had thrown a chair in her direction, but it was blocked by Revillame's mother.

In another incident, he allegedly threw a remote control on the bed, nearly hitting their baby, Almero said.

According to Almero, her husband's violent behavior started in November 2005 after she had given birth.

'It's too much'

She added that it took her a long time to file a complaint because she wanted to keep her family together. "But now I doubt if we can still save the marriage. It's too much. I can no longer take what he did," she said in her complaint.

On Oct. 5, Almero had filed for annulment at a Quezon City court which issued a gag order preventing media from talking about the case.

Meanwhile, lawyer Raymond Fortun told the Inquirer yesterday that he is now part of Revillame's legal team which also includes Armando Marcelo and Dexter Lacsamana.

The right time

His recruitment "came at the right time," he said, because it was formalized yesterday after a "criminal case for child abuse" was filed by Almero against his client.

Fortun confirmed that the criminal case involved "the alleged commission of certain acts

GET MORE NEWS

FLORALICE "Liz" Almero said in her complaint that it took some time before she finally decided to file a complaint against her husband, Willie Revillame, because she wanted to save their marriage.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **An Amorsolo emerges** from his grandfather's shadow /A24

■ **Explosives found inside truck** in Western Bicutan, Taguig City /A23

■ **NBI seizes** P5 million worth of fake P5, P10 coins /A23

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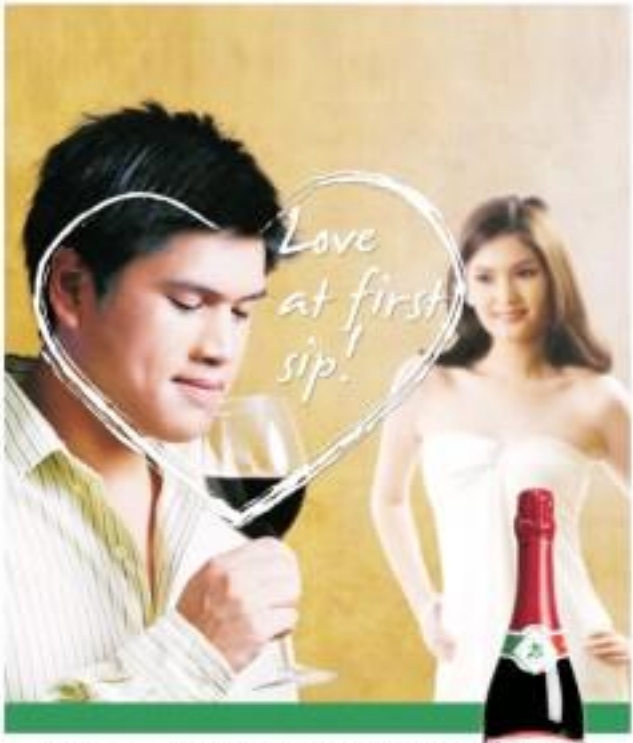

The 59th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines
"The Internal Audit Challenge: Creating Value, Enhancing Quality"
October 19 – 21, 2006 Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City

Greetings to the officers and members of the **Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA-P)** as you host your 59th Annual Convention!

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Mabuhay!

On behalf of the City Government of Davao, I would like to congratulate the Institute of Internal Auditors on the occasion of your 59th National Convention of Internal Auditors.

This year's theme "The IIA Challenge: Creating Value, Enhancing Quality" is indeed apt as it focuses on how we can realize the full potential of this industry without it taking its toll on the quality of service you provide.

This is a significant event as it not only allow our auditors to keep up with the changes and innovations of your profession to be viable and more competitive in the industry.

It is through conventions like this, that we can continue to maintain the quality and level of professionalism expected from our peers. I am especially glad we chose City in the far-flung gateway of the region for business environment for this region.

On behalf of the City Government of Davao, I again extend the warmest welcome to the guests and particularly to this accomplishment.

Maligayang pagdating dito!

Today, high performance companies need not work harder, but have to choose or work on the right things, and doing things right and that is basic to the morale of their leaders in governance. Since internal auditing is recognized as one of the cornerstone of strong governance, this interesting organizations within the business environment, particularly challenged internal auditors. It is for this reason that we honor the 59th annual convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines with this in mind.

The challenge of internal audit today is "Creating Value, Enhancing Quality". In every company, there are high risks in areas that we in the internal audit can initiate value and help the company. Quality in the practice of internal auditing, as mentioned by internal and external requirements by our rules of conducting to our stakeholders that internal auditors deserve are subject to audit.

Fellow internal auditors, as this gathering we the know by taking stock and determining what is best for us. Let us keep pace with the rest of our colleagues in other countries. Let us keep on learning and let us keep on getting value to our roles in our respective areas of work. This is the best time to take up this challenge. Let us make the most of it.

On behalf of the 2006 Board of Directors, let me thank all participating members of IIA Philippines, the board and officers of IIA Davao Chapter, the convention sponsors and other partners, who contributed to the success of this convention.

God bless us all!

Alvin T. De Guzman
IIAP President

A formidable challenge hence more than 300 internal audit practitioners attending this year's 59th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines to create value and enhance the quality of their services; to promote the image and credibility of the internal audit function.

Against the scenic backdrop of the Eleven City of Davao, participants will be treated to the sights and sounds of quality from October 19 to 21, beginning with a grandeur but pulsating welcome from the Davaoeños, represented by their indefatigable mayor, Hon. Rodrigo Duterte.

Quality at its finest will be displayed by an all-star-laced-in lineup of resource speakers guaranteed to stimulate convention partakers' appetite for dominican challenge (see most), backing topics from the technical and technological to the ethical and moral.

The Institute's distinction for empowering certified professionals will once again be showcased as due recognition is given to new Certified Internal Auditors, Certification in Control Self-Assessment professionals and Certified Financial Services Auditors.

And to prove that the Institute is still quite adept at effectively blending learning with fun, live entertainment goes up as the sun goes down. But for the coup de grace, the first shows of quality participants will discover: the exquisite beauty of the renowned Pearl Farm Resort, and the splendid flora, fauna, and orchards that make Davao City a natural economic location of the South and a famous tourist getaway.

"At IIA Philippines' conference this alliance have designed to satisfy every participant's experience unique and memorable. This year's gathering showcase quality and value so that by focusing on value and quality, Internal Auditors can easily help turn things around for their organizations." – Anabel's formidable challenge!

Davao City is considered the country's largest city in terms of land area which is 2,443.61 square kilometers. It has an estimated population of 1,449,296 according to 2000 census. Davao's economic takeoff began. It is the second biggest outlet market within the East ASEAN Growth Project.

The eastern shore of the area, that reflects distinct beach and marketing areas, also remarkably influenced with the rich cultures and traditions of migrants. There are two supermarkets, the Abreo de Davao celebration every March and the Kadayawan Festival in August.

Davao is typically free. The city enjoys low inversion under seasonally temperatures and humidity all year round. It has an environment conducive to agro-ing production. Average temperature is in degrees Celsius and average rainfall is as is 2,000 mm yearly.

Pearl Farm is located in the Samal Island off the coast of Davao City, southern Philippines. The premier beach resort, which lies on the pristine island of Samal, used to be a pearl farm. There thousands of white-lipped oysters, indigenous to the Sulu Sea were once cultivated for their pink, white and gold pearls. Today, beach lovers all over the world rest and relax in Pearl Farm's beautiful 50 by white sand and panoramic landscape and waterside lounging pool. Here the indoor/outdoor restaurant is a relaxing private retreat in a tropical paradise.

PROGRAMME

October 19 (Thursday)
Opening Ceremony
Opening Remarks: **Ms. Hazel Ile Guzman, CIA**, IIAP President
Welcome Remarks: **Hon. Rodrigo R. Duterte**, Mayor, Davao City
Inspirational Address: **Mr. Wee Hock Kim, CIA**, ACCA President

Session Topics
Role Based Audit Approach
Ms. April Bermudez, CIA, Director, Ind Layard & Co

The Role of Internal Audit in Risk Management
Mr. Rolando Valentuzela, VP Chief Risk Officer, Export Bank

Auto Expo
Cultural Show featuring Indigenous X Dance
Presentation of 2007 IIAP Davao Board of Directors & Officers
Live Modeling by Celebrities

October 20 (Friday)
Session Topics
CLEAR: A Growing IT Governance Framework
Mr. Reginald Hiry, CIA, CISA, Partner, KPMG Laws Manangement & Co

Preventing & Detecting Budgetary Fraud
Mr. Juan Carlos Rabaya, CPA, Partner, Punongbayan & Araullo

Balanced Scorecard for Internal Auditing
Ms Rebecca Sarmiento, CIA, Partner, SGV & Co

Self-Governance: Is Your Department Ready?
Mr. Alfredo Dadivanijang, VP Instructor SK Inc

Organization & Culture in Ethical Environment
Dr. Jesus Orbeta Jr., Chairman, Institute of Corporate Directors

Profile of Success: Back to Basic Internal Audit Department
Ms. Iwamanda Yunas, CAE, Vice President Administration, and
Ms. Celeste Buiza, CIA, Associate Director, PBZ Global HK

A Call to Service Like Those We Can Do To Help Our Country
Atty. Alexander Lacson, Book Author

Closing Plenary Dinner
Presentation of 2007 IIAP National Board of Directors & Officers
Launching of the IIAP Annual Convention

October 21 (Saturday)
Post Tours: Resort Days

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HAPPINESS IS ... Children living at the Bauan Compound in Tondo, Manila are all smiles after seeing their images in a digital camera.

₱5M worth of fake ₱5, ₱10 coins seized

By Margaux C. Dela

FIVE COINS OF SMALL DENOMINATION are now being counterfeited.

In its first operation against counterfeit Philippine coins, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have seized P5 million worth of fake P5 and P10 coin issues and arrested the Taiwanese operator behind the illegal operation.

NBI Director Reynaldo Montoneng said cases for violations of Articles 163 (Making, Importing and Keeping False Coins) and 166 (Selling of False Coins) of the Revised Penal Code would be filed against Tyng Sung Lin alias "Sayang Lee" or Chih-Chieh Lin.

Yang was arrested in his house on Tecoma st 68 A, Marcelo St., Barangay Dalandanan in Mariveles City.

Montoneng said NBI operatives, led by Head Agent Roland Argabioso of the bureau's Field Operations Division (FOD), seized 17 boxes containing 1.12 plastic bags of false P10 coins; 60 pieces of deformed counterfeit P10 coins; and 27 sacks containing blank coins.

Equipment also seized

Argabioso's team also confiscated an air compressor, a resin crusher, a sand coin crusher, a set of P5 coin clichè or electrotype plate, a dye cleaner, a punching and stamping machine, a packaging and polishing machine and 200 false P5 coins.

"This is the first time that any law enforcers seized counterfeit coins and arrested the operator," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Gov. Armando Ibarra said in a press conference at the NBI yesterday.

"The kind of operation is unusual, even abroad," Ibarra said, explaining

FOR REPORTING, SEE A24

METROBRIEFS

Tiangco not worried

MAYOR NO. Mayor Toby Tiangco, who Malabon Mayor Jeannie Sevilla in a session of the opposition yesterday said he is confident he would win charges against him. "I'm certain that I would not be suspended because there is no pending case filed against me at the Ombudsman or any court, including the Office of the President," Tiangco told the lawyers. Tiangco is a member ally of former President Joseph Estrada and is also the spokesperson of the deposed leader's political party, Partido ng Masa, in Metro Manila.

Randy C. Corvera

Celestial show coming up

ON OCT. 20 and 21, the Orionids will grace the night skies with 15 to 20 meteors per hour. The Seven Sisters' Solar Observatory in Antipolo City invites the public of all ages to view this celestial spectacle. "Like all meteor showers, the Orionids are caused by debris from a comet," said Steven Suñez, in-house astronomer Ramon Sevedra. This time, debris from the Halley's Comet will be passing through the earth. "Weather permitting, we invite everyone to this celestial event. Host the shower can possibly produce some fireballs or bright meteors," Saavedra said. Steven Suñez is located at the Hollywood Hills Subdivision on Tumahimig Highway. For inquiries, call 6566000 extension or 6566076.

Fiesta Pilar celebrations set

THE LA HUSMANDAD [unrecognizable] event, an annual gathering of all Caviteños gather in Metro Manila in celebration of Fiesta Pilar, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. The affair which will include dinner, a dance and a raffle will be held at the Coral Ballroom, Manila Pavilion Hotel on J.W. Marriott, Manila. For tickets, contact Elena Perez at 8940529 or 891-4011155.

Explosives found in truck in Taguig

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TERROR-STRIPPED A NEIGHBORhood in Taguig City after a bus-mounted bound an examination on remaining several explosives in his delivery truck yesterday morning.

City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said the ammunition box contained army blocks of TNT explosive weighing one pound each, a smoke grenade, seven ammunition magazines of different calibers and 30 pieces of spent shells.

Ramonsantan Civilian Bureau Jr. immediately alerted the police after he found the ammunition box at the back of his delivery truck which was parked inside the EP Housing on Western Bicutan shortly before 9 a.m.

Bureau said he was inspecting his cell drink delivery truck when he saw the explosives.

Corpus, on the other hand, said the explosive device was "not rigged to explode" as the explosive Ordnance Division found no power source such as a blasting cap, a cellular phone or a battery to trigger an explosion.

Unassembled bomb

"The explosives were not yet assembled. But as to the motive behind this, we are still investigating," he told the reporter.

He added that the explosives would have caused "substantial damage" if there had been a "power source" to trigger the explosion.

The police have not yet arrested in on the people who left the ammunition box but a police walker was found 10 meters away from the truck.

Corpus identified the owner of the trailer as Bonifacio Bonifacio, who is now the subject of investigation.

The discovery was made following reports that terrorists could be in the final stages of planting more attacks in the metropolis and other parts of the country.

HONOR REFLECTION The image of a curious crowd that had gathered at a gas-refilling center on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City is reflected on a puddle of water. A truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas tanks hit a post yesterday, resulting in an explosion that ruined the refilling station.

Binay's suspension a political vendetta

THE SUSPENSION OF MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR Binay by Ombudsman Simeon of political vendetta. The Binay camp was at the forefront of the "Erap Resign" rallies.

If only for deliberation, the Palace should have withdrawn itself from investigating the complaint against Binay for employing "ghost" workers at the City Hall payroll. That act could have been left to the Office of the Ombudsman, which is on the side of Malacañang anyway.

Binay's suspension was a clear message from the Palace to its political enemies: Don't mess with us.

In Tagalog street lingo, Malacañang's move sets parusot (unadulterated kawalanghiyaan).

* * *

This is not to say Binay is a saint. He has several pending cases with the Ombudsman for plunder.

But Malacañang should have foreseen the consequences of its action. Binay is very popular among his poor constituents. They are willing to die for him because he extends to their needs.

If the police were to make good on their threat to throw him out of City Hall, they would have a rebellion of Makati's poor on their hands.

The city is the country's premier town and central business district. When Makati sneezes, the country's economic and political equilibrium gets a cold.

Oh well, the Arroyo administration doesn't care as long as it is able to shore its enemies or distractors who's the boss.

* * *

The police, in the course of enforcing the suspension order, are courting the ire of the soldiers based in Fort Bonifacio.

Among the people in the barricade are dependents of soldiers in Fort Bonifacio who are beneficiaries of Binay's spending of their

ON TARGET
Rowena Tuigo

blood retainer. Let's hope the soldiers' dependents are not fired during the scuffle for control of City Hall.

* * *

Another reason why the Makati standoff should be handled carefully is that Binay is a colonel in the Philippine Marines reserve. He didn't wear his Marine camouflage uniform Tuesday for nothing. That man is clever that he has the sympathy of the Marines once he is one of them.

(Sound from my sources in the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio states enlisted personnel were willing to march to Makati City Hall to show their support for the embattled mayor. They were, however, prevented by their officers and confined to their barracks.

The situation in Makati is a time bomb ready to explode if not handled correctly.

* * *

Who's this Court of Appeals justice who embodies his decision just on he can delay the promulgation of a case?

Delaying the promulgation means there's time for the winning litigant, especially in a civil case concerning money, to talk to the justice.

Another justice just sleeps on the cases in his division. Although he doesn't extort money from litigants, he's just too lazy to go over the cases, in that case, this justice should be asked to retire.

Let's hope not all appellate court justices are acting like these two justices.

* * *

Bicol Talib Alia of Davao, Maguindanao had better not show his face in Davao City because Mayor Rodrigo Duterte hates him like the plague.

Duterte suspects this of unloading 4.5 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "shabu," in the city two months ago.

The controversial Davao mayor has mentioned the Muslim mayor in his radio and TV program.

Suspected drug peddlers mentioned in Duterte's radio and TV program end up getting killed under mysterious circumstances.

DID YOU KNOW

NEW: out of 10 Metro Manila households, two don't trash picked up by a garbage truck (1.8 million out of 2.1 million households). About 112,000 households burn their garbage, while over 80,000 families dump their trash in unauthorized sites. Only around 8,000 households practice composting.

Cyril C. Arcadeno, Inquirer Research

GREEN CHOICE PHILIPPINES,
the National Ecolabelling Programme of the Philippines
through The Department of Trade and Industry
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The GP3 Continuous Workshop Exhibit will be an informative instrument for manufacturers who want to meet today's global challenge of increased demand for eco-polluting products and manufacturing processes. It will also provide useful information, tools and know-how to companies and offices for their establishment of green purchasing programmes in pursuance of new government directives and national law. Mark your calendar, 23-24 October 2001, 9:30am-6:30pm, Bulwagan Hidalgo, Manila Hotel.

RESOURCE SPEAKERS

JOHN PYLE, Founder and Chairman of Sea Change Environmental Marketing, Inc. & Canada - Manila Bay Foundation, Inc., a Canada - Philippines partnership organization dedicated to environmental and social initiatives in the Manila Bay Region. He is also the founding member and Vice-Chairman of the Manila Ecolabelling Network (MEN).

Congressman MIRIAM ALEGRO, Congressional District Representative of Quezon City's 2nd District. She is a member of the Committee on Ecology, Committee on Energy, Committee on Natural Resources, Committee on Public Information, Committee on Public Order and Safety, Committee on Science and Technology, Committee on Trade and Industry, Committee on Urban Development and Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

SCOT CADE, after serving seven (7) years as Director of the University College Faculty Institute in Pennsylvania, USA, he established his own consulting firm specializing in Corporate Responsible Sourcing, Education & Development.

Ms. GLORIA "Baby" SEVILLA, Former DENR Secretary, during which she was instrumental in the passing of major laws on Philippine forestry, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and the Philippine Environmental Code. Environmental Consultant to Asia, Congressional Representative of Negros Occidental's 4th District and the organizer of the 1986 uprising in Negros Island.

IVAN MCLEE, a professor at the Asia University, South Korea, and an expert in the Cycle Assessment (LCA). Dr. McLee has also worked with companies like Panasonic, Toshiba, Sony, Nissan, Honda, Mitsubishi, Fuji Xerox, Canon, Ricoh, Sharp, Hitachi, Matsushita, Sanyo, Kirin, Asahi, Suntory, Kao, Lion, Shiseido, Kanebo, Kyocera, Nikon, Olympus, Minolta, Yamaha, Fujitsu, Nippon Steel, Nippon Kokan, Sumitomo Metal, Kobe Steel, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Electric, Hitachi, Toshiba, Matsushita Electric, Sanyo Electric, Sharp, Sony, Pioneer, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone

An Amorsolo emerges from his grandfather's shadow

RAFAEL Amorsolo with his wife of over 38 years, Marilyn. At left is one of Rafael's paintings which like his grandfather's work, features a rural scene.

By Cindy Palacpacio-Dalizon
Contributor

THE AMORSOLO CAN ALSO paint like his Lolo Nanding.

Rafael Miranda Amorsolo, grandson of Fernando Amorsolo, the country's first National Artist, also dabbles in landscapes and portraits.

"As a child, I remember watching my Lolo Nanding whenever he was painting," Rafael, "Rafy" to his family and friends, said to the Inq7.com.

"Fernando Amorsolo is more than a national artist to me. He is a great man, humble and generous," he added.

This is the first interview Rafly, who is turning 60 today, has given to media. For most of his life, he has preferred to live in his grandfather's shadow but now, he says he is coming forward, not because he needs the publicity but to pay tribute to his Lolo Nanding.

"I want the people to know that Lolo Nanding left us treasures more valuable than any material possession in this world: His good name, his integrity and his kindness," he added.

He hardly resided like an artist child, he and his grandmother, Helen Vega Amorsolo, often visited Lolo Nanding's house on Scout Rallos Street in Quezon City. There, they exchanged stories over lunch and snacks.

Rafly is the only son of painter Pablo Amorsolo Jr., whose father, Pablo Sr., was the brother of the late national artist.

Orphaned at an early age

Rafly's father died of pneumonia when he was barely five months old. His mother, Teodora Miranda, also became sick and died a year later, after her death, Lola Pelisa, Pablo Sr.'s wife, took care of him.

Rafly said: gets misty-eyed whenever he remembers his childhood. He has fond memories of his grandmother, a housewife, who stayed true to herself.

"We were able to receive letters of the Financial assistance coming from Lolo Nanding and my two uncles, Evelyn and Cecil in Lolo Nanding also helped send me to school, from elementary to college," he said.

Other relatives like Fernando's children—Nanding Jr., Adelaida Lim, Gracia, Gloria and Mercedes—also pitched in whenever they could.

Change of plans

Rafly grew up in Sta. Ana, Manila. After graduation from high school, he took up Economics at Philippine Women's University but Chess somehow filled the weekend he assumed to be his artist's life his grandfather, he transferred to Manuel Luis Quezon University where he enrolled in Fine Arts.

But after his semesters, he decided to quit college and started painting. He was only 18 years old then.

"I remember telling my Lolo Ju (says he imagines Cruz) I needs what you've done. I am also good," So he gave me materials so I could start painting," Rafly recalled.

The first painting he did was a portrait of his father. He said he was very happy when he showed it to his grandfather who told him, "Marunong ka pala, pagkatapos mo pa nito (You know how to do it, now) hand over it." Rafly added that he could not forget how the national artist stared at the portrait with a satisfied smile.

"I was still a baby when my parents died. I'm glad Lolo Ju-Ju took good care of me. I may have been young then, but I could already feel their pity for me because I was an orphan," he said.

But Rafly was quick to add that he was a happy childhood. "Kuya always sang inspiring inspirations to Lola making me laugh. Sa umaga kame kame (Every morning it was just the two of us, we were happy)" he said.

He did not know his grandmothers even when he married his daughter, Adrienne Marilyn Miranda in 1971. And up to Lolo Julio's dying hours, Rafly was at his side. His grandmother died in 1993 at the age of 84.

Rafly and Marilyn have four children—Elaine, who works in a bank; Mike, an employee in a private firm; Ariel, a call center agent and Rick, a commerce graduate at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

> 'I want the people to know that Lolo Nanding left us treasures more valuable than any material possession in this world: His good name, his integrity and his kindness'

RAFAEL shows one of his creations, a portrait of Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon.

Career shift

When their sons are starting out as a couple, Rafly worked in the custom department of the Philippine Match Co. in Sta. Ana, Manila, but he resigned after a few months because he hasn't seen much in his work.

Rafly said he decided than to become a full-time artist. Although he was able to support his family on his earnings, he had to work harder when his wife resigned from her work as a supermarket in Makati.

"I told my wife to resign and look after the kids' arrival," he added. That was a bold decision on his part, knowing that he didn't have a stable income as an artist.

"The kids are my priority and there is no good their mother to be with them all the time," Rafly explained.

He doubted his efforts, allowing his finished artworks to languish in unsalable piles, that when times were hard, he even accepted payments on installment basis.

His daughter Elaine serves as his agent and promoter.

Unsolicited offers

"It was never hard for me to offer my father's paintings to other people. They approach me most of the time, asking 'Ano ma'a Amorsolo mura-mura?' (Marunong ka mag-paint?) Here sir, you, inlaid to Fernando Amorsolo?' Jesus, I know how to paint!!!" he said.

"I would then tell them about my father and the orders just kept on coming," he added.

Elaine recalled one incident wherein she was applying an extra at a company and the human resources head ordered a painting from her. At one time, a doctor, whom she had consulted when she was sick, asked if he could buy a painting from her.

She and her brothers were practical in school because of their family issues, she added. During special occasions, their teachers would ask Rafly to do the Pasch-decoration or a program or a school poster for a design.

"But there were also times when I felt I had to get orders for my father or else, we wouldn't be able to pay our tuition," Elaine said.

Rafly is most inspired to paint when his wife is beside him. He loves to talk with his wife and sometimes asks her to pose while painting. He fondly would sometimes comment on his work. They would say to her, "Pa, hindi siya kamukha. Pa, mabait yung dog, or Pa, parang nanginginig magsasalita. Pa, it doesn't look like him. Pa, the nose seems big, or Pa, it seems too beautiful." and then would all laugh.

Although he learned most of what he knows about painting from his Lolo Nanding, Rafly was also taught by his two uncles, Professors Cortello.

Same technique

Like the national artist, he prefers to paint idyllic rural scenes. He paint things as they are, the technique or his grandfather his mama (Amorsolo-backlighting)—in which all the figures seem to be outlined against a glow of light.

Some customers sometimes recommend to him to copy an original Amorsolo artwork.

"Pinipilahan ko naman pag 'yun ang request nila, pero ayoko pa ang ipinta ni Amorsolo ang Amorsolo (I sometimes, I can do it if that is their request but the signature will be R. Amorsolo, not Amorsolo)" he said.

Two units refrigerating materials prepared by Rafly. His magic hand (sky, baby care) brush strokes (clouds, suggesting image like the sun can be a genius artist. He has a magic hand, even his brush strokes are excellent," he added.

And like his Lolo Nanding, he doesn't like red or phony paintings.

"Gusto ko maayos, bakay na bakay 'yung painting (I want my paintings to be joyful and full of life," he said.

Rafly has also painted portraits of well-known personalities like former Sen. Jovito Salonga, Bishop Antonio Tobias, Bishop Teodoro Bacani Sr., actresses Elsa Droll, Olympics and Rizal Athletes (who is his cousin), Dionisio Reyes. Dominic Rocha who headed the Central Bilanderas Police regional office, Sto.Rosal Inspector Administrative Affairs Jonathan and Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon.

Full of life

"Buhay na buhay [ang paintings. Buong buong-buo (the painting is full of life, it means very real)," Gloria said of his portrait.

Maryanne Cuna, one of Elaine's friends, owned names for their family portrait and another still for painting in 2003. Their family portrait now adorns their living room.

"Whenever people see the portrait, they would ask, 'Gino ga-mano siguro (who did that)?' and they would be surprised to know that it was done by Fernando Amorsolo's grandson," she said.

"Since that my client kids are growing up, I treasure our family portrait even more. It was able to capture the innocence of my client kids," Cuna added.

She said she is happy she has two Amorsolo paintings at home. "Wala nam akong pera-mana (I don't have money to leave to my future names) akong dalawa na gawa ng apo nya. It may not have a Fernando Amorsolo painting but I know that I were patronized by his grandson!" she added.

Rafly, even in his younger years, never aspired to be as famous as his grandfather. He has never joined artist groups or organizations. He also never declines offers from some sponsors for him to exhibit on outside. For many years, he has shied away from publicity.

"I think she surprise to fundraiser signed dahil na sya sa ngalay bakay to sang ibay pa ako. If never aspired for fame (maybe because of what I experienced when I was young)," he said.

Rafly's family, however, acclaimed to say well why he never aspired to be as big despite his talent. It's because he chose to be an ideal father to them first.

"My dream was never to be a famous artist. My dream was to have a happy family and I got it," he said.

Liz sues Willie . . .

Homepage A-1

in violation of RA 9262—a law defining violence against women and children."

"I would probably work as researcher in the incubator area, which is a civil suit, and serve as Full-time counsel in the criminal case," he pointed out.

Client bothered

Portan acknowledged that Bellaflame is "bothered, just like anyone who is facing civil and criminal cases."

He explained that his role was precisely "to hold his client's hand, reason him that he will be allowed to present his side ... That the public will find out other realities," he opined as this case and that the public will continue supporting him."

Robles said he became involved in the case after two unconnected supporters of Bellaflame approached him about the possibility of putting up a fund to take care of the counsel-for-all's legal expenses.

Anonymous donors

He added that the two "anonymous" donors have yet to meet Bellaflame and only know him because they were regular viewers of "Showbusiness."

"One is based abroad and the other one runs businesses in the country," Portan told the inquirer in a phone interview.

Big contribution

The lawyer, however, declined to specify the exact amount of the contribution. "Suffice it to say that it's not a small amount."

He denied allegations that the donors are connected with Vice President Noli de Castro, whose wife Arlene de Castro is Bellaflame's manager.

"Definitely, this was not instigated by anyone close to the Vice President. I have money not to update with the Vice President. We've not even acquaintances," Portan said.

'They pitied him'

He stressed that the two donors were prompted to put up the legal fund after watching the ABS-CBN late-night newscast "Bandila," which showed a footage of Bellaflame being thrown out of the courtyard house. They pitied him. They also heard reports that his bank accounts were frozen. They were under the impression that he needed help in his legal expenses."

The "frozen" report is now the subject of a "contempt suit" he supposedly violating a court-imposed gag order on the annulment suit.

On Oct. 12, Portan visited the "Showbusiness" set in the ABS-CBN studios, where he met Bellaflame for the first time.

Very much needed

"I told him about the donations. He said he couldn't accept it. But he admitted that it was welcome and very much needed. He added that he would only accept if I would represent him," the lawyer said.

Portan added that what is brings to Bellaflame's legal team is his "familiarity with high-profile cases where the public perception plays a big role."

₱5M worth of . . .

Front page, A-10

that for most kinds of fruits had until that comes of coin counters, turning in their country, for example, more cost.

Public warned

Sycoter warned the public to beware of fake coins, saying that those were generally rough in the feel, while have letters not regular profiles of Philippine leaders.

He added that the fake coins were attracted to magnets because of their almost metallic properties.

Sycoter explained that PM coins are made of copper, nickel, aluminum and zinc and PI coins of copper and nickel. Fake coins, on the other hand, had magnetic components "which make them magnetic."

Huge profits

The BSP official likewise warned that the suspects may have made substantial profits from manufacturing the fake denominations.

"Our unit in Quezon City spends P1.12 for the manufacture of each P10 coin," Sycoter said, adding that the suspects have been able to make the fakes for a lesser amount.

Still owners involved

Sycoter said they began looking for the manufacturers of fake coins on Oct. 18 following complaints from shoppers that some coin owners in Davao-Cagayan mall were allegedly spreading the coins.

He added that the suspects were selling P300 worth of coins for P450.

EU backs limited sanctions on Iran

LUXEMBOURG—THE European Union, spurned by Washington's earlier text, backed limited United Nations sanctions against Iran's nuclear program on Tuesday and offered Tehran economic incentives for opening negotiations.

The EU's 25 foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, called for incremental measures that officials said would be targeted first at individuals and entities involved in banned nuclear or missile enrichment activities. The Bush administration is seeking nuclear weapons but Tehran insists it only aims to generate electricity.

After four months of talks with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, Iran this month rejected a UN demand that it suspend enrichment.

"The Iranians' refusal leaves us no choice today but to take to the Security Council," said Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern, whose country chairs the EU's 15-member council.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier called it the "first step to sanctions" but stressed the EU's offer of cooperation remained on the table if Iran was willing to meet the conditions.

In New York, French UN Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere told Reuters three European powers—France, Britain and Germany—planned to put forward a draft UN Security Council resolution "during the course of this week. We are waiting for Wednesday or Thursday." Reuters

US antiterror law allows indefinite detention

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush on Tuesday signed a controversial law allowing secret overseas CIA prisons, harsh interrogation tactics, and military trials as weapons against suspected terrorists.

The measure, which 10 lawmakers approved last month after a bitter election-year debate over national security and civil liberties, also allows the United States to detain alleged terrorists indefinitely, US officials said.

Bush said that the law outlined strategies that have prevented terrorist attacks on the United States and paved the way for a military trial of the alleged architect of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

"The bill I sign today helps secure this country, and it sends a clear message: This nation is patient and decent and fair, and we will never back down from the threats to our freedom," Bush said at a White House signing ceremony, flanked by top US military and intelligence officials.

While last three words before key Nov 7 decision to decide control of the US Congress, Bush said his Republicans wanted no time to sang the measure against "terrorists who oppose it, accusing them of being soft on terrorism.

Bush

The debate over this bill has been heated, and the questions raised can seem complex," said the president.

"With the distance of history, the questions will be narrowed and clear. But date generations of Americans take the threat seriously, and did we do what it takes to defeat that threat? Every member of Congress who voted for this bill has helped our nation rise to the task that history has given us," he said.

Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert (Illinois) changed that the Democrats hoped to "gingerly pass per the terrorists who plan to destroy innocent Americans' lives." Democratic Representative Ed Markey said that the legislation "will not make us more secure," charging it would raise the risk US military personnel will be tried overseas, undermine the Geneva Conventions and provide "immunities to the worst civil liberties measures ever enacted in American history." "The president can now—with the approval of Congress—indefinitely hold people without charge, take away protections against horrific abuse, open people to trial based on hearsay evidence, authorize trials that can sentence people to death based on testimony literally beaten out of witnesses," ACLU executive director Anthony Romero said in a statement.

The measure was drafted in response to a US Supreme Court ruling in June that Bush had overstepped his powers and breached the Geneva Conventions by setting up special war crimes tribunals for "enemy combatant" suspects.

The court ruled that it has immediate legal challenges that could once again take the issue to the nation's highest court—albeit well after the election. AFP

SILK MAKING. A woman pulls strands of silk from a vat full of silkworm cocoons at a silk factory in the ancient town of Hotan, Oct. 12, in China's far-west Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in Central Asia. —

Israeli president set for indictment

JERUSALEM—PROSECUTORS HAVE begun to draft a charge sheet against Israeli President Moshe Katsav after police said they had evidence he committed rape, Israeli media reported on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, in the strongest criticism yet by a senior official, suggested Katsav should step aside.

Its pressure grew on Katsav to quit, two allies of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert became the third and fourth Justice Minister Yossi Beilin to say charges he forced a bra on a female soldier and lieutenant Yuchi Hanegbi over high-level appointments he made while a minister in a previous government.

Army Radio reported the state attorney general, Menachem Mazuz, was likely to decide within two weeks to press charges against Katsav over the scandal involving female employees.

The report, published shortly the Haaretz newspaper, said Jerusalem prosecutors were drafting a charge sheet after police said on Sunday they had evidence Katsav had "raped one new crimes of rape, sexual molestation by force and violence" against a Justice Ministry employee. Moshe Zalmen said he had no comment.

Katsav, 60, whose ceremonial position is widely seen as a unifying force in a society of deep political division, has denied any wrongdoing and said he is the victim of a "public lynching without trial." His lawyer, Shmuel Moki, said the president would resign his post if an indictment was brought against him.

If the attorney-general decides, however, there is room for an honorable exit, the president would step aside for a moment," Israel radio reminds broadcast by Army Radio.

Livni was quoted by Israel news portal Ynet News as saying it was "not proper" for Katsav to remain president.

"I don't think its correct that the president holds onto his position," Livni said during a visit to the city of Haifa.

Katsav is the highest-ranking Israeli politician ever suspected of sex crimes. He could face up to 16 years in prison if tried and found guilty of rape.

Israeli newspapers said completion of his probe would not end Katsav's woes by a long shot.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres, a Nobel peace laureate, was a candidate to replace Katsav when he resigned. It was unclear whether he would agree to run. Katsav defeated Peres in an upset election when he was chosen by parliament in 2000.

Another name mentioned as a possible candidate to succeed Katsav is former Swiss diplomatic Dutch Ambassador.

The Katsav scandal is unlikely to have any direct effect on the business of Olmert or his coalition government.

Olmert is at loggerheads with court rivals involving Olmert affairs, Bahrain and Ramallah. Reuters

US full of Internet addicts, say researchers

SAN FRANCISCO—THE UNITED States could be rife with Internet addicts as clinically ill as alcoholics, a study released on Tuesday suggests.

Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, California, said their telephone survey indicated more than one in eight US residents showed at least one sign of "problematic Internet use." Dr. Hilarie Cash, co-author of the study, said Stanford researchers are pioneering new diagnostic studies, according to the Stanford researchers.

Most disturbing was the discovery that some people find their Internet surfing or send online to cure bad moods in ways that mirrored drug addiction, Cash said. According to the study's lead author, Elias Aboujaoude.

"In a sense, they're using the Internet to self-medicate," Aboujaoude said. Bad obviously something is wrong when people go out of their way to hide their Internet activity."

According to preliminary research, the typical Internet addict is a single, college-educated, white male in his 30s, who spends approximately 20 hours a week on non-essential computer use.

While the public might hint that online pornography is at the root of the Internet obsession, that was only one piece of the equation, researchers concluded.

"Online pornography and, to some degree, online gambling, have received the most attention but users are unlikely to cause other sites, including chat rooms, shopping venues and special-interest web sites," Aboujaoude said.

"Pornography is just one area of excessive Internet use," Stanford researchers interviewed 2,513 adults in a nationwide household survey. Because Internet addiction has not been clinically defined as a medical condition, study questions were based on established addiction definitions.

Research indicated that nearly 14 percent of the respondents found it difficult to stay away from the Internet for several days and that slightly more than 12 percent often visualized online longer than expected.

More than eight percent of the people surveyed said they had "unsuccessful" Internet use from family, friends or employers and nearly the same number were online to the financial detriment.

Nearly six percent of the respondents felt that their personal relationships suffered as a result of excessive Internet use.

"Our telephone survey suggests that potential numbers of problematic Internet use are present in a sizeable portion of the population," the researchers noted in a paper appearing in the October issue of CNS Spectrums. The International Journal of Neuropsychiatric Medicine.

Aboujaoude, a psychiatry professor in charge of Stanford's Impulse Control Disorders Clinic, said that a public fear increasing number of Internet users are going to doctors seeking help to cure their unhealthy attachments to cyberspace.

He told those patients' complaints are close to check e-mail, make long entries or visit websites or chat rooms is not unlike what sufferers of substances abuse experiences—an irresistible urge to partners an act that may be pleasurable in the moment but runs can lead to significant problems on personal and professional levels.

"The issue is starting to be recognized as a legitimate object of clinical attention, as well as an economic problem, given that a great deal of cons economist Internet use takes place at work," said Aboujaoude. AFP

America's 300 millionth person has arrived

NEW YORK—TUESDAY WAS THE birthday of the disturbed Evil Knievel, the actress Margot Hobbes, the Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi and the 300 millionth American.

The baby's name was Emma Lee Rose Addison, and she was born at 7:46 a.m., when the Census Bureau says the nation's population officially reached that benchmark.

Theoretically, the 300 millionth American might have arrived at an airport from overseas at that hour, or have been smuggled before dawn across an unguarded border in the Southwest.

Just as life magazine did in 1967 with the 200 millionth American, local and national news outlets mentioned their own 300 millionth American.

On average, 11,000 babies are born in the United States each day and the nation grows by 1,000 as an immigrants.

Emma Addison, whose broadgrandfather is Hubbard, 38G, a crane operator, drawn at 7:46 a.m. when the digital population clock, calculating that an American is born every seven seconds, one dies every 13 seconds and the nation gains an immigrant every 31 seconds, reached 300,000,000.

Technically, of course, the 300 millionth American arrived long ago. According to Carl Haub, a senior demographer with the Population Reference Bureau, since 1790 an average of 500 thousand people have lived in the United States.

Statistically, demographers generally agreed, the person who pushed the current population past 300 million should have been a Filipino boy in Chesterbrook.

New York Times/News Service

Riddle on shape of Andromeda galaxy solved

PARIS—A TWO-DECADE-LONG riddle about the bizarre shape of the Milky Way's sister spiral-shaped galaxy, Andromeda, has been solved, paves a study to be published on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science journal.

Instead of having the flat pinwheel shape that astronomers say the halo-shaped of a lumino-spiral galaxy, Andromeda has a warped plane and several entire classic, cooshapping outer rings, like ripples of water.

The reason, according to an international team of astronomers, is that Andromeda suffered a head-on collision with a smaller galaxy some 210 million years ago.

The evidence comes from infrared images of Andromeda taken by the orbiting Spitzer Space Telescope, and from recent a quite different angle.

It theorize previously-hidden, elliptical second ring that protrudes from the heart of the galaxy. This ring is likely to be the debris of gas and dust from a released collision.

The theory has been put to the test in a computer simulation. It suggests that a "dwarf" galaxy, M32, was the likely impactor, probably straight into the heart of Andromeda, also called M31, at a relative velocity of 40 million mph. AFP

Madonna defends adoption of 13-month Malawian baby

LONDON—LIL' DEB. MADONNA on Tuesday defended her adoption of a 13-month-old baby boy from Malawi, releasing an open letter to explain her joy at bringing him to Britain.

The boy, David Banda, was adopted through London's Heathrow Airport early on Tuesday by Madonna's entire after he flew from Lilongwe, Malawi's capital, to South Africa, in a private jet, from where he was flown to Heathrow in London.

In a what of nobility, he was then apparently taken to Madonna's three-storey home in central London—to a two-floor street of trendy Victorian terrace houses, which was rendered unfit for occupation by scaffolding.

Madonna insisted that, along with her husband Guy Ritchie, she had begun the adoption process several months ago and acted "according to the law like anyone else who adopts a child," after local rights groups in Malawi alleged that she was breaking the country's laws.

The 46-year-old was granted an interim order to adopt the poor farmer's son by a high court in Malawi last Thursday after

AN UNDERNOURISHED woman believed to be a nanny carries the African boy she is being adopted by Madonna as she makes her way through London's Heathrow airport with a police escort early Tuesday Oct. 12. —

spending a week in the country, stricken country to assess AIDS projects she had funded.

But the Human Rights Consultative Commission, an umbrella grouping of 67 local rights groups in Malawi, went to court Monday to challenge the interim order allowing Madonna to adopt the boy.

Under Malawian law, regarding adopting a child usually have to live in the country for 18 months and are monitored by social workers before they get full adoption rights. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Another suicide attack in Sri Lanka

GALLE, SRI LANKA—Suspected Tamil rebels posing as fishermen blew up two of their boats in a suicide attack on armored base. Killing at least one sailor in the first such attack on Sri Lanka's heavily-southern coast. Revolutionary said. Two sailors were also wounded and at least 13 others wounded in the attack on the naval base of Galle, while two navy fast boats and another naval boat suffered damage, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. The Tamil Tigers denied responsibility. Police imposed an open-ended curfew in Galle, and an Associated Press reporter there said the town was calm but under heavy security. AP

Jordan jails al-Qaida militants

AMMAN—A Jordanian military court on Wednesday sentenced eight Jordanian al-Qaida militants to life in prison for plotting attacks on US and Israeli targets in US and Jewish targets. Convicted organizer Ahmad Mahmoud was hand-ed a 15-year sentence, although the prosecutor had demanded the death penalty. Appeals can be made and the defendants, three of whom are under-ran Fugitive, Ahmad Hassan and Nathaan al-Sayyar were also given a 15-year term, while the other defendants were sentenced to between two and seven-and-a-half years in prison. AP

9 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Nine US military personnel on Wednesday five deaths of nine US troops in incidents in Iraq on Tuesday, including four soldiers killed when their vehicle was struck by an roadside bomb west of Baghdad. More than 837 US soldiers have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom since the US invasion in March 2003. Nine soldiers were killed and nine wounded while conducting operations in Diyala province, north of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement without providing details. In northern Baghdad, a US soldier died after his patrol was attacked with small arms fire. In western Anbar province, a Marine insurgent throughout, a US Marine died from his wounds after coming under fire. Reuters

Clashes mar Peron burial

BUENOS AIRES—Head Argentine union groups battling with stones and bottles on Tuesday moments ceremony to bury former President Juan Peron for the third time since his death in 1974. The violence erupted hours after thousands of Argentines began filing past the coffin of Peron in the Olivos presidential residence to "farewell" —as the military took out its ceremonies some transformers at the former weekend retreat. Bosses and leaders of the Peronist party were behind the mass, aiming to make his body taken more befitting one of the country's leading figures. Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Guillermo B. Quirico

World fears further N. Korea nuke tests

SEOUL—INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE WAS mounting Wednesday on North Korea not to conduct a second nuclear test after the reclusive state said UN sanctions imposed after its first test were tantamount to a "declaration of war."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, bound for Asia and Russia to line up support for enforcing those punitive measures, said overnight test would "only deepen their isolation, which is pretty deep right now." "There are a number of states that are telling the North Koreans that further escalation would not be in their interests or in the interests of peace and security," she told reporters aboard her official aircraft.

US officials said Rice also was briefing an ambitious plan for suspension of North Korean test, land and air shipments to ensure the atomic regime does not sell its newly proven nuclear materials overseas or repeat tests.

Either White House spokesperson Tony Snow cautioned that Washington expected Pyongyang to carry out a second test.

"The North Koreans have made no secret of their desire to be provocative," he told reporters. "It would not be signed thing for them, but it certainly would not be out of character." Fleischer warned that the UN Security Council would take "further measures" if Pyongyang went ahead with a second test.

"It's very bad for North Korea, would constitute an act of extraordinary irresponsibility that could only push it into further isolation," said foreign ministry spokesperson Jean-Baptiste Mattei.

"In that event, the Security Council would have to consider [all] last measures against North Korea," he added.

"We are watching North Korea very closely about that," he said.

China, the North's closest ally, said it had no information about a possible second test but urged Pyongyang not to escalate tension.

"We hope the DPRC (North Korea) ... will soon back to the track of resolving the issue through dialogue and consultation, instead of taking any action that will further escalate or worsen the situation," Foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said in Beijing.

Liu said China, unprovoked North Korea's biggest trade partner, would celebrate the 120 anniversary.

The UN resolution adopted after the first nuclear test on Oct. 9 called on Pyongyang to give up all weapons of mass destruction, from nuclear bombs and long-range missiles or other goods to its North, and calls for a freeze on any of the North's weapons-related deals.

If there is not eventually, it also allows for the suspension of cargo going in and out of North Korea.

China and South Korea, while lamenting their both the unserious, have said interrupting North Korea's nuclear could escalate an already tense situation even worse. AFP

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Yunus eyes political movement

DHAKA—BANGLADESH Nobel laureate said Wednesday he might form his own political party as he attacked the electoral reforms demanded by interim caretaker administration ...

"The country needs different politics. If we hold elections and there are no quality candidates, then will be no solution," said Muhammad Yunus, who shares the prize with Mother Teresa.

"I will put the stress on the movement for quality candidates ... If necessary, I will form a political party," he told reporters.

Yunus was speaking before leaving for South Korea, where he is to be honored as the winner of the eighth Seoul Peace Prize awarded for his role in developing microcredit.

The prize is given to politicians, statesmen, activists and international organizations and comes an annual prize of $200,000.

Yunus said his Grameen Bank, which offers tiny loans to poor borrowers to help them become self-employed, was the poorest person Nobel peace prize joint.

The banker economics professor said people were looking for a way out of the present political crisis and he saw a role for himself.

"I'm not saying I can do it. But someone has to try. People are looking for someone from somewhere else to get out of this crisis ... this political standoff. So if I can play any role in this regard, I will," he added. AFP

TRADITIONAL DANCE. A group of Chinese dancers performs for Thousand Goddess at Marcy Hotel in Yichang, central China's Hubei province, Oct. 17. Dance troupes have enjoyed great support from the government. AFP

UN explores compromise on Security Council race

UNITED NATIONS—Venezuela and Guatemala talked separately on Tuesday to garner enough votes to win a two-year seat on the UN Security Council, prompting a 24-hour break to explore how to resolve the impasse.

Brazil's UN ambassador Ronaldo Sardenberg said Latin American and Caribbean nations had agreed to hold off voting until Thursday and meet informally to assess the situation.

Venezuela and Guatemala agreed last month to withdraw their candidacies and back Costa Rica's candidacy for the first nuclear veteran Oct. 9 call on Pyongyang to give up all weapons of mass destruction, from nuclear bombs and long-range missiles or other goods to its North, and calls for a freeze on any of the North's weapons-related deals.

If there is not eventually, it also allows for the suspension of cargo going in and out of North Korea.

China and South Korea, while lamenting their both the unserious, have said interrupting North Korea's nuclear could escalate an already tense situation even worse. AFP

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SPORTS

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■ **Pujols** powers Cardinals /A28

RP to host next 3 WPC tilts

EFREN "Bata" Reyes during training

THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP, THE most prestigious international 9-ball tournament, has found a home of sorts in the country that has produced the sport's biggest names.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) chair Ben Maladecena said ownership at the launch of the event that the country will host the next two stages of the event, sadly an opposite to host the third one.

The co-organizing groups of Raja Sports and the Mandaluyong Sport have agreed to a two-year contract with the WPC, the signing set option to extend the country's hosting rights for another year.

"We are sure of holding the event here at least until next year," Maladecena said. "We also have the first option for 2008."

According to Glenn Chan, representative of the event's television partner ESPN, the other countries bidding to host the tournament after the Philippines are Malaysia, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei.

Blackhouse Sport representative Ed Cortez added that South Korea and the Netherlands are also showing interest to host the world championship of 9-ball.

Asian 9-Ball Tour Order of Merit topnotcher and 1999 champion Efren "Bata" Reyes leads a formidable 12-man PH. spine crew that has already qualified for the WPC. The other top stars include 2000 winner Alex Pagulayan, runner Sun Miguel Jose Philippine 9-Ball Open champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante, and last year's semi-finalist Marlon Manalo.

Among the favorite to advance to the main draw after a series of qualifying rounds slated Oct. 20 to Nov. 1 are young stars Mike Takayama, Roberto Gomez and Rowenne David and veterans Lee Vann Corteza and defender "Nick" Ling, Antonio Gabica, Leonardo "Boboy" Andam and Warren Kiamco.

The elevenmen break will be implemented throughout the tournament for the first time. The players will also be divided into 32 groups of four players each this year instead of 16 groups of eight players each.

The top two finishers from each group will advance into the 64-man knockout phase.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, Jr. believes the Filipinos will have a grand time in the WPC this year. "It's different when you're playing in front of your hometown," said Ramirez.

Also present during the lunch were BSCP president Romeo Navarro, PSC Commissioner Ritchie Garcia, former PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carreon and Philippine Athletes swimmer ace-producer Jose Gordon Garcia. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

FROM left Brain Fajardo, William Ramirez and Ben Maladecena

Bata leaves hospital, gets good news

By Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

TRAVELING THROUGH DIFFERENT TIME zones to ride three different contraptions is usually not a tall order for Magsaysay.

But after a short confinement at a local hospital in his hometown in Angeles City, Pampanga, Efren "Bata" Reyes was back on his toes armed with a clean bill of health and the good news that he might finally get his paycheck for his most lucrative victory yet.

The 52-year-old pool legend complained of high fever and difficulty breathing last Sunday after the San Miguel Beer Philippine 9-Ball Tour at the Casino Filipino Angeles That was in Pampanga City.

He was diagnosed of having shortness of breath and asthma at the Angeles University Hospital.

PLEASE

"I felt a little tired and my body had a difficulty in breathing," said Reyes, who came from the World Cup of Pool with Django Bustamante in South Wales, England, the rank-rich IPT knockout in Nevada, and the San Miguel Asian 9-ball over last leg in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Reyes said he won't be coming to town for long down. "I'm not getting any younger," he said.

The three-day confinement may just be what Reyes needed to get rejuvenated to now for the World Pool Championships that the country is hosting. But his option per a hour when long-time benefactor Ramon "Pitch" Puyat told him he could get his $500,000 purse by rolling the Nevada IPT score.

Puyat, sporting IPT franchise Berlin Thrillers, said that the Ukraine's acquisition of the IPT is already on the final phase.

"Kevin promised to pay the players within the shortest amount of time," Puyat said in a separate interview.

"We will definitely know soon if it's true," he added. "If there's no truth to that, he won't [get] his money."

Meanwhile, Reyes said he's ready to show his

MPA/AB

Pujols powers Cardinals

ST. LOUIS—A BIG SWING BY ALBERT Pujols and another playoff gem from a rejuvenated Jeff Weaver put the St. Louis Cardinals on the verge of the World Series.

Pujols' homer helped the Cardinals get to Tony Glavine at last, and Weaver shut down the New York Mets for a 6-2 victory Tuesday night and a 3-2 lead in the NL championship series.

"He doesn't give in too much," Pujols said. "He just piled it some out of the park."

Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter runs here it out Wednesday night in Game 6 at Shea Stadium, which would give St. Louis its second pennant in three years and a date with the Detroit Tigers or the Oakland Athletics. Right-hander John Maine is on the mound for the Mets, who hope to force a Game 7 at home.

The Cardinals got timely hits from Preston Wilson and Ronnie Belliard, and an insurance homer by pinch-hitter Chris Duncan. With the sold-out crowd of 46,486 rooting white wants, St. Louis' young bullpen held on in the late innings after getting roughed up during Mets' Yadi's 12-5 victory in Game 4.

The second reliever of the night Monday night game Glavine and Weaver a chance to pitch on regular rest instead of only a three-day break.

Hitting his 39th postseason start, the career in major league history Glavine got only 11 outs. Pujols, on the other hand, entered his second sequence playoff victory.

NEW YORK Mets starting pitcher Tom Glavine (left) throws against St. Louis Cardinals Albert Pujols. AP PHOTO

And now, for the second time in the series, the clubs will have off without a day off.

Pujols' homer put St. Louis on the scoreboard and snapped Glavine's 22-inning scoreless streak. It also broke his final regular-season start at Washington, Thursday on a core right hamstring. Pujols also went to his knees at first base for Glavine's career-best keepers in the stadia.

The 40-year-old Glavine threw four hit ball for seven shaky innings in Game 3, handing Weaver 2-0 on Carlos Beltran's run-clinching.

But Weaver got the best of Glavine this time.

Cut off by the Los Angeles Angels this summer to make room room for his little brother, Jered, the St. Louis right-hander kept Beltran and Carlos Delgado in check, striking only two runs and six hits in six strong innings. AP

Air show, burgers mark Lidle memorial

CORONA, CALIFORNIA—THREE SMALL PLANES flew over mourners at a memorial Tuesday for Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle, an emotional reminders to his family, friends and teammates that he died doing something he loved.

Following Lidle's funeral, hundreds of mourners did something else he enjoyed: they ate burgers in a barbecue at Los Pues, his favorite fast food.

The 34-year-old pitcher and his flight instructor, Tyler Stanger, were killed last Wednesday when Lidle's plane crashed into a Manhattan high-rise during an instructional flight.

"Everybody was doing fine until the plane started veers," Randy Lidle, Lidle's former teammate on the Philadelphia Phillies, said after the funeral.

Everyone was high among hundreds of mourners during a 45-minute outdoor service. Blue striped savvy wore drop behind dark glasses, and many of family members shared long embraces near Lidle's casket, which was flanked by large color photos of the pitcher. Several people were bathtubs with a photo of Lidle pitching and the words, "Forever in our hearts."

"I was one guy who would throw pass up with Cory," said Phillies pitcher Mike Lieberthal, whose plans to fly with Lidle during spring training never came off.

"It's just crazy to believe how something like that could happen," he said.

Lidle's wife, Melanie, briefly came out to thank those who attended the service and his death. After thanking her many the Yankees and Major League baseball, she described into having who and was helped away.

The couple's 6-year-old son, Christopher, had hugged his mother during the service.

Among those at the funeral were Monument Park in Lidle's hometown were Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson and a contingent of Yankees: captain Derek Jeter, former high school teammate Aaron Guiden, Jose Wright, manager Joe Torre and general manager Brian Cashman.

Cashman, who knew Lidle, said he has explained the same things as he would to other kids's loss to Darwin in the 18. division series.

"I go out to the mound and give him the ball and I come out to the mound and took the ball away for the last time," Torre said. "He play a game that he loved. It's important it is until you face something like that."

Lidle had been a licensed pilot for less than a year. The 20-year-old Stanger was a veteran pilot and teacher who can enter flight school in the San Gabriel Valley east of Los Angeles. Investigators said Wednesday they found the cause of the crash or take over at the controls.

At the reception, family and friends lined up outside a small trailer for burgers, from 16-94 Oz., the family-owned business California-based. AP

Fiba to hold Beijing qualifiers in Las Vegas or San Juan

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—THE INTernational executive committee will decide on Thursday between San Juan and Las Vegas, Nevada, as host for the 2007 tournament to decide qualifiers for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Fiba Americas announced that ensemble here on Tuesday, adding that the process would not include a Guatemala City, Guatemala, which had been slated to host the event but missed a Fiba-mandated deadline of the regional basketball governing body.

With reigning Olympic champions Argentina and the United States from all top International Basketball Association federation teams to qualify, passing through this event, and August's Tournament of the Americas will have a high profile.

Americas did not submit a proposal to be considered a host in the nine bidding process, sending a potentially vote. Heading donation for the US from electing to a no-no. where vice president dubbed US President George W. Bush a devil.

US NBA players trained in Las Vegas before competing in this year's World Championship and the 2004 gambling move a be-fitted to have a mulch conceived to give the NBA members a home-court edge in the Olympic qualifiers.

The home militants for two berths in the 2008 Olympics and while negotiations and the US NBA stars will be reused, Puerto Rico and Brazil will be among those poised to try and fight their way into the field at Beijing.

JAMES

The El NBA stars, who will be led most likely again by Cleveland Superstar LeBron James, will have a path to the Beijing Olympics even if they fail to reach the Americas finals.

Those placing third through fifth in the event will enter a qualifying tournament set to be staged in 2008 that would determine the final three nations in the 12-team Olympic tournament.

Host Dream and Spain, winner of the world championship last month in Japan, have already booked berths in Beijing. The US team host Argentina for them in the world tournament. AFP

MIAMI Heat guard Dwyane Wade connects on the rise before spin-reverse NBA basketball game against the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets in Miami, Florida. The two teams were playing an preseason. AP/PHOTO

Federer, Safin trip Madrid tennis foes

MADRID, SPAIN—TOP-RANKED Roger Federer won his first indoor tournament match in almost a year, while fourth-ranked Rafael Nadal withdrew with bursitis the third round at the Madrid Masters on Tuesday.

Federer had 28 winners and broke Nicolas Almagro three times en route to the final win the 6-3, 6-2 win. In the first indoor match of the 30-year-old's career, a Federer loss to Nalbandian at the Masters Cup final last November.

"It's always nice to beat the Olympic champion," Federer said. "I think I played the big points better than he did. This is a good confirm for my game, and it's a perfect result for the first round."

Nalbandian trailed Federer by 4-3 in the first set before rallying with two crucial breaks for the 6-7 (4), 6-2, 7-5 win.

Former winner Mirni Safin upset ranked no. 13 unbeaten seven by Jose Acasuso by a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3 win. The 2004 champion had that seen to have the Argentine for the first time in three meetings.

Safin will be next to face unseeded Marcos Baghdatis, while Nalbandian will play with seed Tim Henman, who beat Ignacio Clesta 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3). Clesta scored his sixth set at 6-5, but the opponent, who won the Hamburg Masters in May, broke him back times to force the tiebreakers.

Among first round matches, Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia advanced after beat Frenchie seeded with a straight-sailing ankle injury while leading 6-3, 2-1.

The Frenchmen rolled his right ankle in the second set after rolling in serious his four months.

In other first round matches, Swedish qualifier Jonathan Johansson, Ivan Ljubicic of Belgium, Jonathan Erlichet (France), and Juan Ignacio Chela (Argentina) all advanced.

SAFIN

AP PHOTO

'Blue Eagles were gallant in defeat'

By Francis Ochoa

EMERGING FROM HUDDLE AT THE end of the second quarter, Ateneo head coach Norman Black looked at his team and saw a group of players who were not ready to quit.

Despite losing 0-7 at the time, Black knew that his team still had a chance to win.

"I told them that we should get it in it," he added. "We started at all seniors and it was just fitting that he would assist for us. I always believed that when the game goes down to the line, we have hope to win best players. And I am sure it."

Black wouldn't have had it any other way. Even if the semesters from the two big shots that he missed will haunt him long after today, should he avoid a championship would have the last redeemer.

"Given the same situation, I'd still want to take that shot," he declared.

"I tell you as in my mind how he chose to the boss's how it missed off the ring," Torre said. "I make that shot a lot in practice. I've made it several times in games. This time, it just didn't fall."

The shot didn't fall. The Eagles' unsuccessful and the moment they entered their locker room, that's when the realization hit the team hard.

"We've been the type of team that always gets back at you once you look out," Escalona explained.

"That's why it was hard in the locker room after," Artadi finished us. "That's when we realized that we had to start. We can see all of them in the future, hard."

"Real lose-no regrets," said Lord. "I'll always remember this season. The seats has been through a lot together and we went to an overtime in Game 3 of the championship. I'll treasure these moments of it."

"We gave it our all," Mendoza added. "There's a phrase that goes 'gallant in defeat' and I think the team embodied it."

ESCALONA

ARTADI

Sherwood, Northwoods clinch Fed League semis slots

[illegible] (Ibiza Jean Evans)

Group 1 United 6-1-1-0; Scorpio 6-1-1-0; Santiago 5-2-1-0; Black Hole 2-5-1-0; Bolero 1-5-2-0; Group 2 Starwood 6-0-1-0; Northwoods 5-0-2-0; Group 3 Southwoods 5-2-0-0; Group 4 [illegible] 5-2-0-0; Alabang 5-2-0-0; Highlands 5-3-0-0; Canlubang 3-2-2-0; Highlands 3-3-1-0; Alabang 2-3-1-0.

SHERWOOD HILLS AND ROYAL Northwoods clinched the two-spots in the semifinals despite failing to win their last elimination round outings as defending champion Forest Hills absorbed a shock loss to Eastridge in the Recreation Golf League recently.

Sherwood drew with Valley 2-2, while Northwoods bowed to the hungry 3.5-2.5, but they still reached the semis slots reserved for the top two teams in the elimination as the third team in the opening Forest Hills, was beaten by Eastridge, 3.5-2, to relax one unlucky a no-brainer going for Eastridge.

"The Bloomingmen turned Eastridge team inside out to end its campaign with a bang by dealing the Antipolo squad a third title a row blowout loss.

Sherwood Hills and Northwoods, the 2004 champion, finished with 14 and 13 points in the respective Group E and Group H, respectively, as the completion of the eliminations delayed for two weeks due to damages to golf courses caused by typhoon "Milenyo."

Forest Hills was relegated to losing the fifth seed in the home-and-away quarterfinal pairings against dangerous dark-horse Oct. 24-28.

Overland, the third seed and top team in Group I, hurdles Rio-A. Alabang in this other match.

PHOTO: England cricketer Andrew Strauss plays a shot as the Pro-Am event of the Indian Open Asian Tour golf tournament in New Delhi, Oct. 18. England team is in India to play in the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament. AFP/File

S'Woods-Masters pulls away by 10

By Ernesto A. Gonzalez

BAGUIO CITY—THE SCORING STAR OF THE opening round failed to create but Wanda Escalante Elementary still pulled away as a decisive Group 1 lead entering the after 36 holes of the Camp John Hay 6th Asian Ladies Team Championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Underscoring its depth, Southwoods again unveiled the day's best output of 152 points for a 2[illegible] total and a 16-point advantage despite getting no help from Chandeer Garcia, who carded a best-scoring 46 Sunday.

Leading the way for Southwoods this time was Bernadette Abaya with 47 points. Sandy Villegas contributed 43 and Lizzie Campos added a 42 that rendered Garcia's 37 meaningless under the four-to-play scoring reward.

Agoncillo Chungpaim, with Amy Ilyod accounting for the top round so far of 48 points, grabbed second place with a 248 total after tallying with 100 from 110 yesterday.

Mabel Salazar produced a 45 for Agoncillo while Mabel Belmonte made 37.

Sandy Sue added a 47 to her opening 43 for her teammates Ildefonso and Tagaytay Highlands. I dropped from second to third at 252 after managing only 132 for the round.

"We played badly except for Hesly" mound Tagaytay Highlands team captain Marilen Espinagosa, whose 34 was the squad's best. Hesly Estrella Dimaculangan accounted as Baguio Imperial had 30.

"There's no excuse for our poor round," she added.

But it was far from a bleak day for Tagaytay Highlands as its No. 2 team also stormed away from Forest Hills with Melissa Flores joining the squad's 111 output with 62 points.

With its 216-aggregate, Tagaytay Highlands II had the Group 11 title in their hands at 324 points advantage over Forest Hills, which had 196.

An evening rest for the Group II scorers shaped up going into today's final round as Philippine Air Life grabbed the lead with 100 points, 2 up on Baguio Country Club (276) and three ahead of Wack Wack Golf & Country Association (WWCGA) from Group I (77).

"We have to be cautious and not be overconfident," said Southwoods Masters skipper Abbey, noting that her team had also led in the past despite holding the lead going into the final round.

In the individual race, Jo Rosario of Villamor grabbed the lead in Group I with 91 points (43-48) with Abbey second with 89 (42-47).

Jen, the distracting wife of a golf apparel manufacturer, paced Group II with 96 points tied, [illegible] by Rio C[illegible] Elena with 89.

Mabel Salazar of Agoncillo Compagnon and Irene Bruce of Baguio Country Club led Group III with identical 86 points.

Standings after 1 round:

Group 1—Southwoods Masters 308; Agoncillo Compagnon 248; Tagaytay Highlands 1 232; Mt. View 229; Camp John Hay 1 220; Forest Hills-Ibiza 212; Forest Hills 204; Tagaytay Highlands II 196; Forest Hills-Ibiza 192; Agoncillo Dual 87; Camp John Hay II 87; Mimosa Golf & Country Club 170; Mahogany Lodge 1 155; Camp John Hay 1 [illegible]; Mahogany Lodge 2 [illegible]; Baguio Country Club 276; Philippine Air Life 100; Baguio Country Club 176; Wack Wack 77; Forest Hills 204; Tagaytay Highlands II 96; Alabang 89; Mahogany Lodge 1 [illegible]; Agoncillo Chungpaim 248

POC wants to probe Go on efforts to reinstate BAP

By Jose Nimenzo

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMmittee (POC) has formed a fact-finding body to look into the alleged involvement of athletes cited by Teng Itok in the latest issues of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to regain its membership in the Olympic family.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said POC chair Sabino Andamo would head the investigation committee tasked to probe Go's alleged transactions with BAP officials regarding the organization's possible reinstatement.

Fonda Elizalde, the Asian International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, will also be part of the committee formed by the 11-man POC executive committee Wednesday.

"There are currents in them that need clarification. We want to hear all sides of the story," said Arroyuelo. "Once I'm done with the investigation, I'll report my findings to the board."

Cojuangco and Arroyuelo, however, declined to divulge the possible sanctions awaiting the controversial president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Paaf).

Reports have it that Ito Cojuangco's special adviser in the POC, is helping BAP officials campaign for reinstatement early the Olympic body.

The Sagunsos could not be failed to reach for the comment.

But for Cojuangco, accepting the BAP back into the fold is already a foregone conclusion.

"The issue of reinstating the BAP is already one of the question. The fact that they (BAP officials) have agreed to the commonsense means they already surrendered their rights to the SBP (Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas)," said Cojuangco.

The BAP was expelled from the POC family last year until has since raised hands with Filipinos Basketball in a bid to unify basketball stakeholders and entertain this international Basketball Federation (Fiba) to lift its suspension on the country.

The meetings between the BAP and the PBA gave birth to the SBP, a new organization formed by the Dave Sanco group, composed of Bill presidents Joey Lina, Hi-Yard Bernie Atienza and Fruitmen magnate Manny V. Pangilinan.

The planet was failed to appease the Fiba on the unification process of the BAP-SBP, as talks were deferred last week after Lina stepped down from the SBP and was replaced by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. Lina charged the POC of meddling in the affairs of the SBP.

GO TENG KOK

Kaya booters nip Union in Razon Copa

KAYA BASED ON THE HEROICS OF NATional team captain Aly Borromeo and former UP standout Freddie Gonzalez for a come-from-behind 4-3 win over gritty Union FC last Sunday in the Tony Razon Cup Philippine football tournament at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City.

Borromeo and Gonzalez, son of The late football pioneer Tony Razon, conspired for all of Kaya's four goals against the Union booters, who twice drew even in the second half with three quick strokes, only to see them netted immediately.

In clash of debuting sides, Kaya earned its first triumph while dealing Union its first defeat in the event organized by the National Capital Region Football Association and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Lan Erdita, Eardo Caligdong struck twice to pace Air Force to a 2-1 win over erstwhile opponent Army. In Sofe upped Line FC, 1-0, while Army had a goal each from Lando Bellomante and hotbox Lebancio during the Eastern University, 2-1, hello-other Sunday matches.

With the 1-2 punch of Bienvenido, son of SCSSA president Wedido Borromeo, and Gonzalez leading the way, Kaya dominated the first half as they knocked in a goal each.

Borromeo, who skippered the UP squad that saw action in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, started the ball rolling with a volley to slot inside the box in the 12th minute from opposite right zone from Gonzalez.

On the next scoring chance 24 minutes later, it was Borromeo's turn to secure the lead. He chipped past a Union defender from the left wing for a looping pass to Gonzalez, who also headed it in nicely to the center spot.

A veteran of the Germany and Vietnam pro leagues, Gonzalez wasted no time in scoring his second goal seven minutes into the second half, breaking up Union's initial tradition for a solo drive from 30 feet.

Down 3-0, Union refused to roll over and die. Its first goal came in the 69th minute as Gonzalez saw a big gap in the Kaya defense to score virtually unattended from 10 feet in front of the goal.

Fourth forward Eric Ando II 2-3 with an opportunistic goal in the 70th—a follow-up during a goalbox scramble when Kaya goalie Jay Ilagan fumbled the ball.

But once came to his team's rescue by punching the equalizer under the 75th.

THE ACE: Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan serves to Chile's Fernando Gonzalez during their match at the Madrid Masters Series. Gonzalez won, 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4. REUTERS

National Open shooting tourney fires off Nov. 4

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING AS-sociation (PNSA) pays tribute to its late secretary general, Jose Antonio Duval, when it holds its National Open championships starting Nov. 4 at the PNC Marine range in Ft. Bonifacio.

According to PNSA president Lauro Manapat, competition will be conducted in rifle, pistol, shotgun and practical shooting as well as in a special event for the military, Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies.

For the first time in PNSA history, young and aspiring shooters will vie for honors in the shotgun, trap and skeet events. Trap and skeet competition will be held at the Baras shooting range in Rizal province.

Shooting officials, including panel committee chair and national pistol bet, smashed pistol and center fire pistol champion Emmanuel "Toi" Padilla, enjoin all shooting buffs to join and test their skills in the summer outings in Nov. 19.

The tournament secretariat, headed by Col. Danilo L. Gonzales (competition director), James Dana (director, RTA) and Romeo Rivera (director, practical), while the technical committee is chaired by Gus Bustamante with Edward Gamboa, secretary general and SP for international affairs Donald Padilla, Beatriz Concepcion, Bert Tejada, Alfred Gonzales, Modesto Gines, Andy Mata, Jose Bert Cuartero, Oscar de Leon, Jerry Soriano and Odo Marquez as members.

Lions battle Bombers; UE faces Mapua

By Jasmine W. Payo

NCAA CHAMPION SAN BEDA LIONS HAVE REASONS TO WORRY THIS TIME.

The Lions are expecting a hard-fighting Navy Blue Bombers when they cross paths in a battle for a championship berth in their semifinal duel at 3 p.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"They're familiar opponents, but we can't be too confident," said Lions coach Jesus Borlaza.

The Bombers, the team the Lions blasted by an average of 22 points in the SCSA, have trounced UAAP champion Ateneo Blue Tigers and NCAA powerhouse Letran Knights in the early rounds.

An upset win over the Bombers is probable to the other Final Four battle between the University of the East Warriors and reigning semifinalist Perpetual Help at 1 p.m.

Seeded eighth, the Cardinals topped four-time champion Blue Eagles, 70-69, to advance to the semifinals.

Coach Aric Vergara said the Bombers, a subdued army, are eyeing the tournament quite seriously.

"Medyo nagpatol na sa amin, but we've been preparing well," he said. "I think the players are starting to understand our system."

Rizal Glider Oliver Ilore have been minor lapses in the Lions' game plan despite their back-to-back victories over the National University Bulldogs and the University of Visayas Lancers.

"Every day we have to improve, that should be our mindset," he said. "There are little things we have to work on. We have to pay attention to the details."

Coach Bonnie Tan, meanwhile, believes the Cardinals can outmuscle against the favored Warriors.

"The UE players are good and they're tall, but they're not big-bodied," said Tan. "Maybe we'll capitalize on that."

LANCE SHOP
Rizal Memorial Coliseum
1 p.m.—UP vs Mapua
3 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU

Pascual tops Ateneo golfest

JUNIOR LIBERANT FELIX PASCUAL CARDED A GROSS 69 TO EMERGE overall champion in the recent Ateneo de Naga University HS Class 1980 Fellowship golf tournament at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City.

Playing out of Malacañang Park, Pascual also finished with the most number of birdies (four) and longest drive of hole number 3 (255 yards) to get special awards.

Roland Espinosa, assistant manager of sponsor PCSO, topped Class A with a net 69 while Bobi Valdez, Lt. Col. Jesse Tapawan and rapid Yñiez of sponsor Taipei Multi Communications won the Class B, C and D titles respectively.

Dondeland van Unen anyway led the second flight of Ateneo golfers who hit island Laurence Fowers, ADP deputy chief of staff for logistics; lawyer Fiscal Pilloneras, Bingo Bonilla, Ayo Torrillo, Tes Manuel and Brig. Ar and Geronimo. Trophies from Brig. Gen. Macapagal Arroyo were given to winners of the 18-hole event.

SPORTSWATCH

GNC, 3 others unbeaten

GNC, PHILCOM BLUE SEVEN, DEPOT AND AIR ASIA EXPRESS EMERGED THEIR OPponents Saturday to raise their winning count to four games in the Metropolitan round of the Basketball Philippine Athletics League (BPAL) basketball tournament at the San Andres gym in Malate. The GNC supervised from start to finish in routing Philcom of the Philippine Constabulary, 100-63, for a 4-0 record and a chance at the top seed in the Philippine Army Martial Brotherhood (PAMB) basketball tournament. Philcom is also 4-0 while Depot Diesel is second at 3-0. Air Asia Express is 2-1 and Blue Seven is 1-2. Philcom Blue Seven and Depot Diesel are tied at 1-3 while Air Asia Express is 0-4. In other games, Wrangler Bulldozers beat Philcom Blue Seven, 106-103, to improve to 2-3 for second place at 4-0 while Philcom Diesel is in fourth place at 2-3 after losing to Philcom Blue Seven, 83-73, and GNC Air Asia Express by default now PBA Press Corps.

BY TIP CHOICE

Brazilian Grand Prix

Interlagos
São Paulo
October 22, 2006
71 laps (4.309km)
305.909 km

Driver	Points	Constructor	Points
1 F. Alonso (Renault)	175	1 Renault	186
2 M. Schumacher (Ferrari)	116	2 Ferrari	183
3 G. Fisichella (Renault)	73	3 McLaren-Mercedes	109

Underbone races up

TOP UNDERBONE RIDING RACE riders hit the road again in order to be the route riders to the second leg of the 2006 Philippine Underbone Ring Championship hosted the Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Suzuki clocks The first blood by Jhon Nic Mercado as he qualified easily for an unattended win in the 200-cc Supermoto class of the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Nassa).

Mercado is eyeing his second straight victory over rivals Jaime Bascil, Mark Anthony Dino, John Lary Enriquez and Mark Bacolod.

Yamaha, on the other hand, got the bookmaker in the 110-cc Supersticks class behind Aaron Arnaiz and Pilo Lapuebla. Manuel Fernando who hope to repeat Dale Bell, Logrin of www.batangasracingcircuit.com or contact Andrie Rivera or Hideo Bayola at (632) 437-2041, 726-3965 or fax 810-2241 for details.

Bata steps out...

From page A17

and words in the World Pool Championship, a year after finishing out of the group play in Taiwan to reach his career finish in the tournament that he owns. (RFM)

"I'm going to make up for that first time," he said. "Hopefully, I can bring it to the tournament the setting of good luck I've been having in the international circuit."

Last year, Ubod stand here because of ten poor eyesight, Reyes explained. "Things will be different this time around."

Reyes had a successful three-peat in contend his classic Lak Cebuano in the Amateur Pro Center in Mandaluyong City. After that personal, Reyes beat Mike Sigel in the finals en route to a $200,000 triumph last December to the King of the Hill in Orlando, Florida.

PSC sends away squatters at sports complex

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SQUATTERS AMONG EVICTEES.

Lengths unheard of but the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) evicted their poor squatter inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

PSC executive director Jose Emmanuel Soliven announced he has not seen some 20 "misinformed people" residing in country or several in the wake of the night fire on PSC.

Soliven said these people, "mostly relatives of national athletes," have taken residences for months inside the complex, particularly at the Pinoy Aquatic Stadium and Aquatics Complex.

He said the people have been served violations notice this week, though some are asking for extension in order to find other place to stay.

"For humanitarian reasons some of them were allowed to stay until Sunday," said Soliven. "Because some of them are families of national athletes, we can't just send them in the streets."

The PSC officials, however, said a handful of people still be allowed to be located inside the center like plumbers, electricians and sports operators.

"There are people we need in case there's a short circuit inside the complex," explained Soliven.

Last year, the PSMC was also congested when around 200 national athletes were transferred to the Philsports in Pasig where the PSC renovated their quarters.

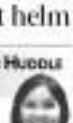
There are several athletes who stayed there, however, to get nearer the facilities of the 75-year-old complex.

The complex, according to the PSC, is no longer fit to house a big number of people because of its old plumbing that would not cater to repair them build a new one.

CAGE MOVERS: National Basketball Conference president Nathaniel "Nat" Padilla (second from right) shakes hands with Quezon province team owner Mark Gonzaga, Fourtrack Inc and Pagadian Mayor Sammy Co. Dumrog team manager Teddy Pilapil and NBC tournament mng. and Tagaytay Mayor Antonio Tamayo.

Dindo at helm

PETE A LONG list of reasons opening up for his pool, I was reacting to be how reporters the Beale Nanaima had assigned to head coach of the University of the East Dindo (still) denied the reports.



IN HUDDLE

Beth Cebu

"I'm still coaching the Warriors in the co-going Champions' League, until I'll" he said over the phone yesterday, as he explained that he has to concentrate, plans to split.

"So, he is aware that there are many people who are after the job, so he cited some names, most of them UE alumni.

If the championship-deded Dindo in the BAM he might have a better chance of catching it in the Champions League.

"We are the only UAAP team left in contention," he said.

A couple of knockout games are scheduled today to determine the finalists UE versus Manuel and then Beda College versus San Beda University.

Our intervention was going smoothly until I mentioned the name of suspended rager Jacobo Cortello.

It's a moment there I thought the line went dead. There was complete silence on the other end.

Upd then our Cebuhol mentor quit himself a spot as I immediately changed the subject.

We Beth, did you know that Japeth Aguilar won the MVP Athletes Formerly Underweight does thank coaches early?

The new message came from Ebony Idea of Satellite Investigation(PI), "the country's only licensed media portal for Philippine basketball on Facebook."

Ebony and Japeth hosted billion interviews in the classroom as well as one hundred others in which he put his entire bravery through the test of the basket.

In the finals round, Japeth turned the tide with a backhaul two-handed basketball slam.

It was purportedly on the Senate floor during the budget hearing last Tuesday that PBC commissioner Butch Ramirez promised Sen. Jinggoy Estrada—who was installed as PBC president for the season 2006-2007—that he would "expire the PAP officers at the Rizal Memorial Complex in the Quiz.

Dr. Ramirez's word, Jinggoy immediately announced the grand arrest to his constituents and the press. That decision would not have but would not completely satisfactory.

It—Jinggoy's utter embarrassment, this is exactly what happened.

It would be very interesting to see what will happen in the next theater budget hearing.

This report needs verification.

I got a phone call yesterday from a basketball official who gave me the tip that a well-known sports personality suspected of employed as a basketball official or an assistant is actually no longer connected with the school, although he makes it appear that he still is.

He has been dismissed by the academic concerned citizenship boards, so I was told.

The person in question is said to be the same three days and if the report is true, he is definitely guilty of misrepresentation.

—

Congratulations to La Salle Greenhills which has just completed a grand slam, winning the Philippine Columbian Association's title in the seventh straight year.

—Salaknos and Sandra Bautista

GOOD MOVE: Hiroyuki Tomita of Japan competes on the horizontal bar during the men's exercise final at the Rome Arena, Oct. 17, at the 39th Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Denmark. AFP

RP Olympic Festival to draw 10,000 bets

By Jose Mesiera

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE has framed a grand festival bonanza planned for the next geezers. Onward athletes.

The Olympic body yesterday launched the second edition of the Philippine Olympic festival, a multisport event designed to discover new talents on the countryside to hone the country's bidding for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"With so many untapped talents in the countryside, we are confident we'll discover other potential champions during the festival," said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "This is the easy way of showing us to that talent so we can be internationally competitive."

Gathering more than 10,000 athletes and officials representing 30 disciplines, including 28 Olympic sports, the POC kicks off its Mindanao in January next year, the first of five regional legs where the medal winners clash in a national championship.

Lanao Del Norte takes the nib for Mindanao on Jan. 6-14 while other three zonal legs will be held in Antique City (Jan. 22-30), Camarines Sur (Feb. 5-13), Benet Eee (Feb. 20-March 4) and the National Capital Region (March 19-26). The national championships will be in Marco Bicol tentatively scheduled in April.

The POC has raised funds with $100,000 Olympians, the international Management Group and the local government units of each region to make the tradition possible.

"The POP will give our sports system a sense of direction with the POC and the LGUs taking an active role in identifying talents," said POC chair Robert Aventajado.

He explained that once a potential athlete is identified, the POC will team up with the programs to athlete development financially supported by the Olympic Solidarity Movement, the POC and the private sector.

"While we are already preparing for the SEA Games and the Beijing Olympics, the POP also has set its sights on the development of potential medalists for the London Olympics in 2012," said Aventajado.

According to Cojuangco, LGUs have a total budget allocation for sports of about P5 billion from the government and, if used in a rational fashion could help fund potential talents.

Events on top are table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, baseball, boxing, shooting, basketball, archery, wrestling, cycling, football, lawn tennis, judo, rowing, canoe-kinds, gymnastics and equestrian. The non-Olympic sports are dancesports, sports climbing, karatedo, muaythai, chess, cricket, netball, takraw, pencak silat, powerlifting, golf, bowling and sepak. More than 6,000 athletes and officials from 22 sports meet, part in the first POP stage this June.

Over 6,000 runners eyed for Milo leg

MORE THAN 6,000 RUNNERS ARE EXpected to join when Tacloban City hosts The National Milo Marathon on Sunday, right in front of the famous Provincial Capitol of Leyte.

That's on the 30th race, the country's biggest and longest contest, from nine others more than P450,000 in cash prizes as well as trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers on each racing event.

The conference said that Sunday's major event in Eastern Visayas is the 21K qualifying race, where the top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions earn slots to the national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Among the early favorites are reigning title Dinaw Belayneh of Ormoc City and 2005-2006 winner Edjet Lapasquit of Calbayog, Samar.

Albert Pacuibi, Jonathan Belmonte, Gilbert Lumoto and Bro Pelmido, meanwhile, can pull the rug from under the two favored runners.

Veteran Camilla Lalamo is favored to the distaff side but young runners like Angela Cristopherson, Anamy Rose Yagas, Jennifer Ann and Genevieve Galasao are out to make the race more exciting.

Congresswoman Remedios Petilla and Cary Cachuela-Jaworski have been members of the local organizer Skil Innovators to grace the occasion with Representative Petilla firing the starting gun in front of the capitol which becomes the site of the Philippi-Continental Milo from Oct. 23, 1944 to Feb. 27, 1945.

The 2006 Milo Marathon has an unprecedented 70 legs for 2006. On Oct. 29, the race will be held in San Fernando, La Union.

Supporting local organizer Skil Records are the Tacloban PNP, the traffic and security group, the Philippine Red Cross and the Department of Public Management Service for medical and emergency, and the Ormoc Junior race encoutering.

Milo Sports Director Rio Dizon is advising participants to be at the starting area not later than 4:30 a.m. for pre-race briefings and check in. National Milo Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho is advising participants to wear the Milo T-shirts given to them upon registration.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao seeks 3th sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION JULIET JAO OF SMILAX cannot barricade hopes to continue his winning streak in the lifting of the 2006 Shell Advance Expedition Mount Apo Challenge Bike Race on Saturday and Sunday, at the Batangas Racing Circuit, following his fourth straight crossover the last leg. Jao fronted up his lead of more than nine minutes and secured close to his goal of standing his 10th consecutive crown with a grand time of 6 hours and 40 minutes. Jao's secret was formed by the National Mountain Sports and Safety Association chairman. But his archrival Brian Mendiola of Speedfile—only 18 short with one if he solve all four races—failed and lost crop on his second 12-hour stint at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, leaving leader to third place second behind Paul Dizon and Christy the Rosario. Completing the fleet are John Diego, Randy Orly, Arthur Godinez and Bernard Mendoza. A record of seventy-three participants started off BPC competitors, including Pauline Bernardo Cayabyab (RED) (07:12:01), CPS (GRE) on the (F-S: C:16).

Fastest Win today

A NEW FORMAT IS OBJECT OF THE GOOD OLD Sunday afternoon basketball at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym today with more than 10 fights on tap. The first, second and third fighters who champions will be matched after every four fights and will receive P5,000, P3,000 and P2,000, respectively, said Sunday's Rob Allen, Arthur Dimaranan, Ronnel Rubio, Jayson Mercado, Marlon de Castro headed the special 9-ring fights at UFC on Oct. 16, when no ONE every talent is parked roster of four points. Quarter is the big four losing quality players, Francisco Dela, C for details, contact (0918) 8888, (0918) 8888 and (0920) 1900 (TV Latino).

Tan heads breeder race

ATTRACTED BIG CHAMPIONSHIP ON THURSDAY'S racing derby on Ateneo Coliseum, Pangasinan founder Penny Tan outdueled the heavy quad of Lester Gutierrez, Jonathan Lim and Jeffrey Ang to win the feature of the Tan race. Tan's 4 Differently leads the pack with 12.5 seconds. The final battle of competitors will compete today also at Ateneo Coliseum beginning at 1 p.m. event will be conducted. The weight for the Derby format will be adopted soon, said 12th Governor Bong Tan. Meanwhile, the 12th Breed Championship 9-ring derby will be held on May 17 at Ateneo Coliseum. Those who are holed in the WTSB Trophy should bring their racing cards to the venue on Oct. 28 Ateneo Coliseum Race at Tan Juan Coliseum. For more, call 631-2626 or 631-2000.

THE PRETTY AND BOXER: Brazilian president and candidate for re-election Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (left) with former Brazilian Playmate Priscila during a campaign rally in Rio de Janeiro Oct. 11. AFP

2 Taguig jins snare golds

TAGUIG CITY BEN PELONIDE SALDO AND Maria Jessica Rivera stole the show at the recent Ateneo national age group taekwondo championships by winning a gold medal each in the mid-junior men's and women's division at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Saldo beat Olympian Terrence Romeo to grab the Fourteen-Nadine title in the welterweight group while Rivera topped UE Maverine Mendiola to bag the women's welterweight gold.

The other mid-junior welterweight medalists were (silver) Allen Neil Lim, Jun Sebastian, the Macedonia Ramos, Rosendale Ry, Cyrille Dionne Lucero, Gerard Ryan and Amiel Nikki, Lui Peñas, senior middle.

Winners—Camille Anselli, Olympia, Inc. Leigh Ann Hagard, Mimay Tadeoneda, Jessica and Paolo Largay, Gomez, senior-medalists Sherry.

The mid-junior men's senior tournament were Ryan Suson, 2 Dale, Jay Dante Villegas, Bede Magno, Bj Stephen Bautista, Elizabeth Istion Bilbod, Jamiana, Joel Antony, Rupert Gonzales, brother, Ben John Gregorio, Lugano, gold, and Ulea Mae Liz Santiago, RMDE welterweight.

Top honors in the women's mid-junior senior class went to Analyn Jake Peña, Pennelope Ry Summers, Jana Beth Rivera, RMDE Brother, Bonny Angeles Dwelling Dr, light welter, and Joy Beverley Pamela. Dr. Sweety Rich, middle heavy.

Cycling Search: Carrera snatches victory

SHERWIN CARRERA OF ALLEY SPORTSWEAR struck while the iron was hot to defender Mercedes Dionisio of Rebisco Bikers and United Victor Philippines during warm burn were burning one another's back to take the third leg of the 4th Cycling Search Invitational criterium race before another huge crowd in Marikina City over the weekend.

The 23-year-old Carrera broke away only with a little more than mark that she added Bernard Lumot of San Leonardo, Lloyd Reynante and Jessie Cagas of Sampan-GMA PBC and Sampaguita Hercules Rances and Joel Dantiso and then shot like glue from start to finish in the last run started and ended at the back of the Blue Nile overall.

But the Talon 11 Carrera solely saved his energy for the last lap, which is worth 10 points, outsprinting Lucero in a furious wind up to claim huge honors in the third of a 10-stage cycling spectacle promoted by Philpost.

Carrera amassed 28 points to bring his total to 40 seats further third overall behind Dionisio and Rosendale, who registered two notches from fourth overall.

Dionisio, last year's overall champion, chose to slide it out with a huge second series that also included Mamang and the entire Robert Bobo 6 Wheels squad, allowing teammates Ramos and Dantiso the chance to rest it up with the first push.

But that strategy allowed the riders to overtake him, including Bel. Ing trainee Rodolfo Malangan, who claimed to finish overall behind Carrera.

Rampart Domingo spoke ruled the meeting category, sending all points scratches for a 12th seed with Pro-Air Vinder, who again placed second in the closing, a tie second overall rode 16.

In the elite category, Stephen Remington of Tiger Mart has to look stage honors worth 27 points for a total of 62.

MEET THE FLEET: Young Douglas Manning displays a good time ride as he steers his pick-up truck in Mercedes-sport's Club Motorsport Shadow Sprint and Fitz 2006 recently at the Festival Mall in Alabang. Only 12, Manning bested veteran rivals in clinching the titles in the Open A, Open B, Novice Prototypes and the Novice Modified Calabarzon. Older brother Ilo, on the other hand, captured the Overall and Production Beast Time of the Day with 58.91 seconds.

ROCK FACE-OFF

Colt 45 Rockista Final Leg Yields 2 Finalists Instead Of One; 11 Amateur Vocalists To Vie For P450,000 & A Recording Contract

Thirty thousand screaming spectators witnessed a rock duel in the last leg of Colt 45 Rockista on MTV at the SM Mall Of Asia last October 14.

What originally was supposed to be a contest for ONE finals slot yielded TWO winners as amateur vocalists Alvine Katrina Oliva and Hope de Dios bested 8 other hopefuls in the South Manila Regional Finals – the last in the nationwide elimination leg – which also featured performances by the homegrown rock bands Slur Pupil, Urbanized, Shinebox, Soapdish, Yano, and Colt 45 endorser Bamboo.

Garnering identical overall scores, Oliva and de Dios each performed a face-off song that hoped to break the tie. But due to their overwhelming talent and rock-worthy judges (Nonie Buencamino of BUMA, Twinky Cagahastian of MTV, and Myra "Shaider" Ruaro of Innovation) 45 Stars scored both as winners. Thus, they each pocketed P150,000 and earned the right to continue their quest to become the country's next rock icon by entering the finals dubbed Colt 45 Rockista on MTV: Judgment Day.

Oliva and de Dios were later introduced together with the 9 other finalists in a special MTV segment hosted by VJ Nikki Faith Arroyo.

Colt 45 Rockista on MTV: Judgment Day airs every Monday beginning October 23 at 8 p.m. on Channel 41 for UHF, Channel 22 for Sky Cable, and Channel 29 in Cebu and Davao.

Reprises on Wednesdays at 12 noon and Fridays at 11 p.m. Hosts are Raymond Menorgan of Sandwich and Faith Arroyo.

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BUSINESS
Website:
Editor Raul O. Pilarski • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez
Editorial feedback: E-mail:

Expanded VAT nets ₱48.4B in Jan.-Aug.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers with Trade Secretary Peter Favila (on her way to the BOI CEO Intern of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City where she is the guest of honor) CONNIE BU

Keeps gov't on track in meeting 2006 target

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE EXPANDED VALUE-ADDED TAX LAW HELPED RAISE P48.4 billion in additional revenues from January to August, surpassing the P45.8-billion target set by revenue authorities for the eight-month period and so far keeping the government on track to meet its fiscal reform goals.

The ability of the government to raise the nearly P75 billion in additional revenues this year from the implementation of the expanded VAT, considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, is closely being monitored by market analysts and credit rating firms.

The implementation of the expanded VAT, an unpopular measure that went through tough sailing in Congress, helped the Philippines get a "positive" outlook from credit rating firms, befitting the expected revenue gains from the law measure for the whole year. However, has more weight in helping the Philippines get an shares upgrade in its credit rating.

The VAT law basically expanded the coverage of the imposte to include services, others, all manufactures, and raised the tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent. The law also raised the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent from 32 percent.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that of the P48.4 billion in additional revenues collected in the first eight months of the year, the Bureau of Customs accounted for P36.6 billion, exceeding its P34.9-billion target.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue contributed P11.8 billion, also higher than its target of P10.9 billion.

The VAT imposes the VAT on goods purchased and services rendered locally while Customs charges it on imports.

"This revenue realized on the VAT is very important because the law provides that 20 percent of the collection this year should be allocated to infrastructure and social services," Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said in a statement.

Cebu Pac outgrows mart, now top domestic airline

By Rica T. Obdiania

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING BUDGET carrier has become the top domestic airline in terms of having the most number of passengers, operating the most number of flights, and reaching the most number of local destinations.

For the month of September, Cebu Pacific's total passenger load jumped 35% percent year-on-year while that of the market grew 4.5 percent.

Airport traffic figures showed that Cebu Pacific flew to 20 local destinations and operated 624 one-way flights a week. Philippine Airlines was second with 594 flights to 19 destinations, followed by Asian Spirit with 350 flights to 17 destinations and Air Philippines with 230 flights to 12 destinations.

Cebu Pacific also operated 24 routes in its domestic network compared with PAL's and Asian Spirit's 18 and Air Philippines' 15.

The latest market share report coming the period Oct. 1-15 showed that overall, Cebu Pacific's better performance translated to a domestic market share of 40 percent, up 4 percent from July, and ahead of PAL by a percentage point.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said the end September and early October reports showed that the airline sector only outgrew the market but that there was enough demand for the airline to consider adding more routes.

CURRENCIES

OCT/2007

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.930 – $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.59 PERCENT higher yesterday as last minute bargain hunting pushed the market out of negative territory where it started for most of the session amid crude oil trend watch, brokers said.

The composite index added 21.88 points to 3,748.35, after falling as low as 3,723.22. The broader all-shares index rose 5.83 points to 1,971.47.

Gainers led losers 92 to 58, with 50 unchanged. Turnover totaled 2,929 billion shares worth ₱2.29 billion.

"The market was quite sluggish because of the end of another week and there was no foreign buying," said economist Angelito Oliveros of the capital brokerage inc.

"This is a good time to buy as valuations

(MARKET, B2)

The power of black.

The BMW 3 Series and 1 Series Limited Edition models.

• Exciting new shades
The Limited Edition models come in three eye-catching colors: Electric Red, Alpine White and Black.

• Exclusive aesthetics
Each Limited Edition model is fitted with 17" light alloy wheels that accentuate the car's sporty character.

• Exquisite features
The BMW 3 Series Limited Edition is equipped with the innovative BMW Comfort Access system. The BMW 1 Series Limited Edition features a multi-function steering wheel and the new Sensatec Grain/Motion Fabric seat upholstery.

HK firm tapped to prepare master plan for Boni project

Development of Metrobank, BCDA lots in Global City

FEDERAL LAND INC., THE REAL ESTATE subsidiary of banking giant Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank), has tapped Hong Kong-based Skillarch, Olsen and Associates (HOK) International Ltd. to prepare the master plan for the development of a 25-hectare property at the mixed-use area part of the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

In a statement, Federal Land said the master plan would cover a 10.4-hectare property owned by Metrobank and two lots with a total size of 15.3 hectares which are held by state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

"We expect the plan to be completed in 15 weeks," said Federal Land president Alfred Ty.

The company, however, could not immediately provide estimates on the cost of the development.

Ty said engaging HOK International Ltd. was in line with the agreement between Metrobank and the BCDA. This agreement also called for Federal Land co-sponsored the project.

HOK International Ltd. provides planning, architecture, interior design, engineering and consulting services for the construction and development of hospitality, residential, commercial, health care and corporate facilities.

For the Fort Bonifacio project, it will be assisted by local planning consultant Environ Systems Group Inc.

"We are confident that this project will maximize the values of the properties of both Metrobank and BCDA, and ensure that the development to become here part of Fort Bonifacio will be aligned with the re-designed concept of the Bonifacio Global City," Ty added.

BCDA vice president for Business Development Oliver Jose said that upon the completion of the master plan, the BCDA could already start the bidding process for its 15.3-ha property.

"We are looking at the first quarter of 2007 for the bidding and privatization of our property," said Jose.

The project will form part of Federal Land's P6.3-billion capital expenditure budget for next year.

It said the business that Federal Land had envisioned in budget for next year from 2006 to the year so it was expecting more opportunities in the property sector during the period.

This year, the company started constructing concrete towers for each of its residential condominium projects that it carries in Bicol City and Marquisa on Bonifacio in Manila.

Next year, it hopes to further expand in Bacolod residential clusters and start new projects in Makati and Quezon City.

Lobby dovey

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

WHEN IS OUT TIME A WELL-FUNDED group is pursuing a lobby all the way to Malacañang for foreign airlines to get their own routes and "license to fly"?

Under their law-based but relentless lobby, all this cute administration of Gloriastela must do – in the name of "liberalization" and "globalization" – is to give just about any foreign airline all the freedoms it must want to operate unlimited numbers of flights between a "third" country and the Philippines and, in theory on the long, endless it to operate all the domestic flights it wants anywhere in the country.

Thus, from what I heard, the idea of the lobby group now is to make this cute administration keep-dovey with foreign investors to the next to bring?

Well, such a brilliant idea has never been implemented in any country, city and poor village throughout the history of the world. This is a lie!

If we implement the bright idea, it should only spell doom for the struggling local airlines – and not just the national flag carrier that, already battered by turbulence-stagnant Lumbo. Yes, the rapists whose some of the well-known figures in the lobby group just love to hate.

The lobby group, which I heard is headed by a former Cabinet official, must be out to kill the domestic aviation industry. Not just that, what I heard is sad!

Minus the aviation jargon, all the lobby group asks for are the so-called 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th freedom rights for all foreign airlines.

Okay, for the sake of our movie stars in the audience, 3rd freedom rights mean a foreign-based airline, for instance, can pick up passengers not only in Singapore but also from a "third" country like Thailand, then bring them to Manila, then fly them from Manila to Cebu and from there, to Boracay – plus the turnabout.

The group supposedly even submitted to a draft of an executive order to implement its beautiful plan. In the draft, I assure that the initial targets are extending flights for foreign airlines between any "third" country and the airports in Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. The term is literally destination of casino-loving "mainly" from both China and Taiwan.

In effect, the lobby group wants Gloriastela to change her mind again. Only last August, the President issued EO 500-A, which killed, for the point of "unilateral" feature to foreign airlines for flights between their home countries and either Cebu or Subic.

"Unilateral" what? Well, the home country of the foreign airline does not have to give the same privileges to our airlines. Sama sa wika ko, you know, it's a one-way street.

Now the lobby group wants the whole pie. Talk in business merchant that the lobby group already succeeded in pushing for its, er, "cause" to be included as a key feature of the proposed "competitiveness" program of Gloriastela.

Well, everything is all up to Gloriastela at this point. Whether or not she will have a part in the murder of the local aviation sector remains to be seen.

"In accordance with this purpose, a rehabilitation court must necessarily be empowered to issue and implement orders and processes to ensure the implementation, even of those supplemental rehabilitation plans or, as the case maybe, the liquidation of a debtor corporation," CAP said in its memorandum.

It also said the court's jurisdiction over rehabilitation cases and the power to approve rehabilitation plans included the issuance of relevant orders to ensure the plans' implementation.

CAP said the court approval of its rehabilitation plan would only pave the way for the continuing of its obligations to plan holders and creditors, and would not result in the resumption of its regular business operations.

CAP said it needed to secure proper permits and licenses from the SEC before it could resume selling plans. However, it claimed that the SEC had made lessons in connection to deny any such application.

CAP said the issuance of its dealer's license was crucial to the company because it was a condition set by its prospective investors.

Court asked to order issuance of CAP license

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN Philippines Inc. (CAP) said the Makati Regional Trial Court has the authority to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to give the go-ahead to its license back, the company said in a memorandum submitted yesterday to the Makati court.

CAP legal counsel Gilbert Herrera said this was in compliance with an order of Branch 149 Judge Cesar Untalan requiring parties involved in the company's rehabilitation case to submit a memorandum on whether the court has the authority to order the SEC to issue CAP a license and to amend contracts without the consent of the creditors.

CAP said Section 23 Rule IV of the Interim Rules on Corporate Rehabilitation allowed the court to issue such orders to ensure the immediate and successful implementation of a rehabilitation plan.

The company said the purpose of rehabilitation proceedings was to determine whether a debtor corporation could still be revived to operate as a going concern or should be liquidated to set losses.

Expanded VAT . . .

Pretty page B1

senior Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

Teves said it was crucial for the BIR and Customs to optimize the expected revenue gains from the implementation of the bill's provisions to Congress any other possible revenue-raising proposals for legislation in the future.

He said the executive branch was not pointed to push for more tax measures for legislation anytime soon, except for the bills on the rationalization of fiscal incentives and income tax rebates that are pending in Congress. Additional tax measures, if needed, would have to come after attaining the expected revenue gains from existing reforms like the expanded VAT.

Shares close higher

Pretty page B1

as universally the market will be moving up especially toward the latter part of the year," he added.

Dealers said investors generally remained bullish toward the equity market amid improvements in the country's economic fundamentals, such as the country's fiscal performance, strengthening its chances of getting a credit rating upgrade soon from international credit rating agencies.

The government had announced that it slipped into a budget deficit again in September after posting surpluses in four of the last five months, as it spent more to ensure economic growth.

But the Department of Finance said its budget gap of P58.4 billion the first nine months of the year was less than half of the government's target ceiling for the period.

AFP

BIR seeks change in process of setting revenue targets

GOINGS-ON

Asia's best managed firms

THE 47 INVESTMENT HOUSES (IH) in the Philippines were voted by International Finance Magazine (IFM) Asia as the best managed companies in Asia for 2006.

Based on a poll conducted by Euromoney Magazine, IFM Prime Holdings Inc. was awarded the "Most Outstanding and Coherent Strategy" in the overall market industry for the banking and financial services sector. Rascador Inc. bagged the same award for the banking and financial services sector.

Also, IFM Prime was chosen the "Corporate Governance with Annual Recognition Awards for 2006" for this 22.

Asiamoney cites SBC

SECURITY BANK Corp. was cited by Asiamoney Magazine for being a standout among the top local banks in the Philippines.

Security Bank's Trading Room for Investment Products and Structured Notes was cited for its 1st place.

Asiamoney's Samuel Zosa said PNB has garnered a record number of categories and been named "Best Local Bank in the Philippines" for the 6th consecutive year.

Interbanknet's Jimmy Dychiao was also voted Best Single Electronic Trading Platform.

Filipino talent in animation

TO PROMOTE ITS INTERNATIONAL competitiveness, the Department of Trade and Industry, through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, and the Animation Council of the Philippines are organizing Animasing Bisaya 2007 Animation Competitions and Workshops.

Animasing Bisaya is an invitational competition for animation students in the Visayas. Oct. 23-25, screening of entries; Oct. 27, announcement of finalists; and Nov. 16, submission of final material.

Agency also needs more people, additional funds

By Michelle V. Rosca

CLAIMING TAX COLLECTION TARGET for next year of P764 billion was too high, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is seeking a revision in the process of setting revenue targets, additional manpower to go after top shots, and enough higher operational budget.

"If you want good things to happen, you have to pay for it," Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag told reporters in an exclusive Palace interview.

Buñag said the government had been setting BIR's collection target without taking into consideration the agency's resources and capability to perform its duties.

Buñag said the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the main agency body in charge of setting the government's economic policies and goals, had been taking into consideration only base investment figures in setting revenue targets. These include the expected gross domestic product, exchange rate and inflation.

"How should [a more realistic collection] target be set? Buñag (DBCC) should look at the other things," Buñag said, referring to the BIR's actual capability to meet the target.

The P764-billion collection target set for 2007 is 20 percent or more than P130 billion higher than this year's goal of P670.4 billion, which the revenue agency said was already too high.

He noted that the BIR's total workforce was only 11,000. He said that revenue, which has the same number of taxpayers as the Philippines, has 40,000 internal revenue personnel.

BUÑAG

Of the 11,000 BIR employees, only about 5,000 are revenue men, he said. The BIR is currently conducting a study to determine how much more of manpower it needs to improve its collection revenues.

Buñag said he was hoping the BIR's P7-billion annual budget would be raised. He said the agency needs enough operational budget for training," Buñag said.

He added that there was much work to be done to further improve the BIR's capability to detect tax frauds, such as better revenue collection and taxpayer profiling. The agency is presently cleaning up its taxpayers database.

In the first nine months of this year, BIR collections amounted to P479.2 billion, falling short of the P492.4-billion target for the period. Buñag, however, said the shortfall was not entirely the BIR's accountability.

Chemrez prepares to meet biodiesel demand

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL BIODIESEL PRODUCER CHEMREZ Technologies Inc. has committed to produce enough biodiesel to supply the 70-million-liter-a-year demand that the consumer of the Biofuels Bill into law is expected to spur.

Citing industry estimates, Chemrez said that with the 1 percent biodiesel blend that the law would mandate, biodiesel demand would likely hit 1.16 million to 1.68 million liters a year by 2006.

The plant took into consideration the possibility that the Philippine Biofuel Board, which the Biofuels Law would create, would find it feasible to increase the mandated blend to 2 percent.

From 2008-2005, Chemrez said biodiesel consumption averaged at 6.65 million liters a year, with about 7 billion liters consumed last year. The new capacity is to increase at an annual rate of 3.4 percent over the next five years.

Despite the expected demand growth, Chemrez said it had "more than enough operational capacity to meet the demand for refined-metal quality biodiesel required by coil firms for blending with petrodiesel."

In a statement, Chemrez director Mitsuo Iseki said the firm's biodiesel plant could produce 69,000 metric tons or 69.8 million liters of the product yearly.

The company's biodiesel blending plant that is capable of producing 35,000 tons or 17.36 million liters of biodiesel a year.

Chemrez chief operating officer Brian Lim Ah said the company could also take advantage of the conversion of sugarcane feedstock, particularly in the region Outer member countries.

He said the company was currently in talks with several EU members who have expressed to be major customers of both coconut methyl ester and crude-based biodiesel.

In an earlier interview, he said Chemrez was already supplying biodiesel to entities in the west and Australia.

It is currently negotiating biodiesel supply deals in China, Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia.

HGC issues P12B in bonds

HOME GUARANTY CORP. (HGC) RECENTLY launched its P12.5-billion new coupon bond issue, which is in line with efforts to further expand the government's residential real estate housing programs, and encourage the development of a secondary market for the housing sector.

The bond issues securitizing was highlighted by a briefing for investors, which was attended by representatives from the financial community and various government agencies.

The new HGC's second bond issuance, will due first held in 2006.

HGC president Gonzalo Bengzon, Bengzon said the investors were expected to boost the agency's guaranty corporation capabilities by creating a low-cost financing, which is counted for 44 percent of the agency's outstanding guaranty as of the end of 2005.

The bonds, which comes in seven years, will be issued at a discount to par through a Dutch auction, Bengzon said. He added that the interest income earned from the issue up to 10.15 percent per year would be exempted from all taxes.

The auction is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 20 while the issue settlement will be on Oct. 27. The maturity date is 2013.

According to Bengzon, the issue is particularly full of facilities to investors because it carries "the investor-driven and market-driven guaranty of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines." The issue is likewise covered by a contract of guaranty between the Department of Finance and HGC for the benefit of investors of the bond.

Vice President and Treasury and Risks Development Coordinating Council (TRDCC) Chair Nell de Castro said the infusion of additional funds into HGC's guaranty resources should make coverage be greater access to more loans to the residential real estate housing markets.

Bengzon added that the bonds issue was also expected to accelerate guaranty coordinators into the housing program which had been running steadily since 2001.

As of June 30, 2006, the agency's P197 billion-a-year guaranty encumbrances yearly over the past five years, its outstanding guaranty reached an all-time high of P15.5 billion in 2005.

Proposal to encourage real competition at WESM

IN LIGHT OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION of alleged price manipulation at the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), consumer watchdog National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) calls for the establishment of independent competitive entities for each of National Power Corp.'s plants.

"This setup will lessen the possibility of price manipulation as they will no longer be able to control the market. Moreover, the removal of each of these entities dependent on its own setup will cut the spot market and contract mechanics outside the spot market," Nasecore president Ben Dingan said in a statement.

"The individual corporate entities will be forced to be efficient to be able to offer more attractive rates to the consumers. In effect, the evils of power will come out," he added.

He said having one corporate entity for each of Napocor's generation units would make price manipulation at the spot market less likely as this setup would pit these plants against each other.

Under the present structure, Napocor has more trading teams at the WESM, accounting for 20 percent of the total volume being traded.

The capacity held by Napocor's captive power generation producers (IPPs) is being traded by four teams from the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

WESM spot rate Philippine Electricity Market Corp. is currently investigating the alleged price manipulation by PSALM during the third month of trading at the spot market (Aug. 26 to Sept. 25).

Signs and price manipulation could be provoked if Napocor's IPP-indexed Bicol of Generation Co. and Mindanao Generation Co. would be managed from trading their capacities in the WESM.

"These [power produced by these firms] are already contracted and will not be a source of price distortions in the market. The Department of Energy must formulate a separate rule for these IPPs for purposes of dispatching because these capacities will be used by the consumers whether delivered or not," he said.

It is on the bid submission, Napocor said the ongoing probe did not involve any other entity but PSALM.

Napocor, which was dragged into the issue since PSALM was trading the capacities of its IPPs, denied any trading malpractice.

"Our bidding is based on open trading terms, representing not more major power generation plants. Napocor does not have a dominant position in terms of market share in the WESM, nor does it have any capability not the ability to manipulate prices," the state firm said. — Abigail L. Ho

Mining stocks fall

SINGAPORE—SOUTHEAST Asian markets were mixed on Wednesday as lower metal prices hit mining stocks such as Philippines' Atlas Mining Corp., while better-than-expected profit results from Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank buoyed bank shares.

By midday yesterday Singapore's Straits Times Index fell 0.49 percent, and Malaysia's benchmark Kuala Lumpur Composite Index added 0.42 percent.

But Thai stocks rose 0.19 percent by early yesterday afternoon; Malaysian shares rallied 0.68 percent higher, and Philippine shares added 0.12 percent.

In Manila, copper and gold miner Philex Mining Corp., which owns the only operational copper mine in the Philippines, fell 2.5 percent.

Gold prices weakened on Wednesday as a drop in crude oil prices gained selling from speculators, while tin, zinc and nickel prices continued their tumbling. Base metals higher on the London Metal Exchange ended this week.

Manila Mining Corp., an offshoot of gold miner Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., fell 0.83 percent.

In Jakarta, PT International Nickel Indonesia Tbk, the Indonesian unit of Canadian nickel producer Inco fell 2.2 percent, while PT Aneka Tambang Tbk dropped 1.6 percent.

In Bangkok, bank stocks were boosted by Siam Commercial Bank PCL, which reported a lower-than-expected 3.6 percent fall in third-quarter profit, dragged down by higher expenses, provisions and taxes. The stock soared 6 percent.

Kasikornbank PCL, the fourth-biggest bank by assets, added 3.8 percent, while number two lender Krung Thai Bank rose 1.7 percent.

In Singapore, Keppel Corp., the world's top offshore rig builder, rose 2 percent after the firm confirmed on Tuesday that its unit, Keppel Integrated Engineering, had won contracts worth $817 billion ($1.05billion) to build and upgrade a solid waste management facility in Qatar.

Analysts said the broader Singapore market was weighed down by profit taking in bank stocks, which had outperformed the market in the last month.

DBS, Southeast Asia's biggest lender by assets, fell 0.2 percent. The stock has risen 12.2 percent in the last 6 1/2 weeks.

Overseas-Chinese Banking Corp., the smallest of Singapore's three lenders, dropped 0.3 percent.

Citigroup said on Tuesday that it had cut its recommendation on DBS Group to "sell" from "hold", its third "sell" call on DBS since late 2004, citing valuations. Analysts said Keppel's upside potential for its share price.

Reuters

Bush to push free trade at Apec

Initiative part of US-led reforms

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush is expected to push for a plan to improve the patchwork of free trade initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region at the annual Apec summit in Vietnam next month.

The move is part of measures being campaigned by Bush for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, comprising 21 developing and developed economies in the region, a senior US State Department official said.

"We can't ignore FTAs. But trade agreements. They are time-consuming, and our aim is how do we make them better and what kinds of boxes we need to consider," said Michael Michalak, the US envoy to Apec.

There are presently Apec 406 free trade agreements and regional trading arrangements underway or being proposed by Apec economies, which include the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Chile and key Southeast Asian economies.

Some of the free trade initiatives in the region are aimed at elevating trade than existing trade. They are said to be attractive to produce exchange and having extremely complicated rules and hindrance with the global trading system.

Hoping that the Apec forum has held numerous discussions on the subject for several years, Michalak said, "we want to take it to another level, in terms of a way forward."

The free trade habitat is, he said, was part of a broader reform plan focusing on Apec's trade, investment and security agenda.

While the United States is waging an aggressive campaign to spur global economic to open markets globally to the Doha World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, it is also eyeing free trade arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region as an insurance in case world trade talks collapse.

PHOTOREADY—the past a sign of the upcoming Apec (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting in Hanoi. The Vietnamese capital prepares to host next month's summit of the APEC's 21 members.

Some American economists have urged the Bush administration to push for an Apec-wide free trade agreement, advocating the "noodle bowl" of FTAs and more importantly to propose a regional "plus 0" to most tariffs.

In Apec economies account for more than half the world economy and almost half of world trade, they believe an Apec FTA outcome would be more ambitious than Doha, which at best envisions reduction in trade impediments.

"Doha remains our number one priority for us as we talked in the past, certainly the ministerial we made agenda has a global, regional and bilateral component to it," Michalak said.

The United States is also supposedly concerned that the steady soaring of free trade pacts in the region, particularly to Asia, could pose obstacles to it as China moves to forge agreements with booming economies.

Washington has openly said that its free trade pacts are more comprehensive than those of China.

In Southeast Asia for example, the United States is struggling to forge free trade agreements with nations covering trade ranging across such as agriculture and manufacturing products, services, intellectual property, government procurement, environment and labor.

China's FTA with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) centers on goods with although services are being negotiated.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam. AFP

Oil holds at $59

SINGAPORE—OIL HOVERED NEAR $59 a barrel on Wednesday as traders awaited an OPEC meeting likely to make deep cuts output, while weighing an expected rise in already bulging crude oil stocks in the United States.

Oil light crude for November closed 7 cents higher at $59.06 in a lacked by comparable afternoon, after falling $1.01 or 1.7 percent a day ago, ending a three-day losing streak. London Brent crude climbed 7 cents to $61.04.

"The market has drawn on the US oil stocks data... but more importantly, it is also awaiting to see if there is going to be a supply cutback before on the production side," said IFR-based analyst Phil Flynn with Alaron Trading.

Ministers from the organization of the 10 Arabian Exporting Countries are scheduled to meet in Qatar today to clear a deal to reduce 1 million barrels from their output in an attempt to stem oil's drop from a high of $78.40 in July.

But the group has been divided on whether it should cut the output from actual production of roughly 27.5 million barrels per day (mbd) or from its nominal 28 million mbd ceiling, a disagreement analysts say has hurt the cartel's credibility.

Thursday's meeting may also provide the first public comment from the world's top producer, Saudi Arabia, which has thus far remained silent on the proposed cuts.

Two weeks ago a senior OPEC delegate said the kingdom would cut output by about 300,000 bpd.

Reuters

INDONESIAN labourers work at a construction site in Jakarta. Indonesia's parliament approved on Tuesday the government's 2007 budget after two months of debate, with a deficit it for Southeast Asia's largest economy checking in at $4.4 billion.

BCDA to pay Baguio ₱15M

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE BASES CONVERSION Development Authority has advised the city government that it would begin to pay P15 million from the developing Camp John Hay into some private distribution.

This prompted the Baguio City Council to issue the agency another ordinance under amounting to P500 million.

Suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon had tried to collect over P500 million from BCDA, which represented the city's share of the rent paid by Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco).

The developer is operating a tourism resort but it lost on investments in 2004 after the Supreme Court nullified their lease. He introduced in 1999 by Proclamation 420.

Because of the court order, 1st Division chair Andres John Imbernpia, who is also CJHDevco president, stopped paying rent despite a new contract guiding the BCDA to recovering the developer's outstanding cost of about P1 billion during back to 1996.

Jesus Jaques Cable, vice president of the BCDA retail manager John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), now city administrator Dolor Phelps earlier this month to inform him that the only amount that the city was found on what the government actually collected from the developer and what part of the money was used in land projects.

In an Aug. 28 letter to city treasurer Thelma Bautista, Cable listed the projects financed by BCDA out of the city government's share of the rent since 1995.

Part of the loan that is also set aside for the P80 million purchase of the Baguio Country Club Center from the Government Service Insurance System.

The construction centers was built by former First Lady Imelda Marcos in 1979 to host the class match between world powerwarriors Anthony Kampor and Victor Korchnoi.

Cable said the local government brought the property for a center from the Government Service Insurance System by obligating seven years of proceeds representing its share from the lease rentals of CJHDevco.

Cable also put P76 million in a trust fund, "but the fund never saw the management about. There is no problem," Maureen said.

Cable said the council has records of a fund reserved for repaying the conversion rental, which was an additional obligation BCDA agreed to shoulder after it bought the facility from them.

Bautista and some of the projects Cable identified were not reflected on the city government's official list of projects.

She also said that the 1995 memorandum of agreement detailing the city's revenue share from John Hay projects "is not clear."

"It does not say BCDA can stop paying Baguio if the developer fails to pay government because that is not what the agreement says," Bautista said.

The suspended mayor expects also be affected by any new rent arrangement BCDA stakeholders with CJHDevco because there are economic centers he says active, as BCDA still owns as the tenant."

Manicani Island at center of mining debate

By Cyrus E. Cabanes
Inquirer Visayas

GUIAN, EASTERN SAMAR—ON A clear day, Mount and Island looks imposing, rising like the other island homegrape of this town facing the Pacific Ocean.

At the base of the island, however, lies its secret—vast, huge gaping craters apparently made by heavy machinery.

About an hour-long boat ride from the town proper of Guiuan, Manicani is home to Filminvest Mining Corporation (MDC).

By many views, Manicani has served as a haven for fishermen who would encounter rain nature or clouds on World War II artillery.

The island used to be endowed with various species of tropical fish, coral beds and lush vegetation.

There are also many swamp and beauty compliant some people to reside in Manicani for good.

Mauricio Amora, 60, a native of Bohol, was a third-year medical engineering student when he decided to settle in Manicani after falling in love with his Samarnon wife at the late 60s.

"It was like the promised land. There was abundant produce in the mountains, the sea was teeming with fish, and the islanders lived like vast big happy family," he said.

Three days, however, Amora has no pleasing to come of Manicani.

"The island's bathing resort is ruin and depleted marine resources no longer hold true promise," he said.

Amora is one of the residents who want Manicani Island from Pakanson Syndicated Ventures Inc. in January 1993. But due to low metal prices and limited demand or called for the would-be MDC temporarily suspended its operations from December 1993 to 1995.

It resumed operations in 1997 and 2001 but was met with protests by some sectors, including the Roman Catholic Clergy of the Diocese of Borongan.

In 2002, then Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez created a special team composed of representatives from the office of the Undersecretary for Environment and Natural Resources, MGB and EMB Central Offices to investigate the impact of the mining operations in the island and to validate complaints raised by the Diocese of Borongan.

After a week of research, the team concluded in a report that the operations posed no threat because these occupied just 1.27 percent of the smallest Island group and contained no toxic elements.

Manicani Island is part of the Guiuan Protected Seascapes and Landscapes, declared on Sept. 20, 1994, through Presidential Proclamation No. 468.

From their interviews with the islanders, they came to the conclusion that marine life was greatly depleted because of dynamite and cyanide fishing.

Moreover, their sampling showed that siltation and deterioration of fish habitats were not due to the mining operations but to other factors, such as natural geological changes.

Carlo Galicinao, 39, president of the Concerned Citizens for Peace and Progress of Manicani Island, said that the interests of the island are dwindling to the people of Manicani, which they richly served.

"The Roman Catholic Church of Borongan should give a chance to the mining company to rehabilitate the area before making any judgments," he added. "We want to get enlightened by MDC because we are no longer young pets with the illegal cutting these fishermen."

In his letter to former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor dated Nov. 10, 2004, DILG provincial Salvador B. Dawson (1) said the requests should be submitted and dropped out for they will contribute much to the economy in terms of employment and taxes.

Dawson had said that MDC was committed, under the mining laws, to rehabilitate the mined lands.

After getting the DENR Ore Transport Permit and the approval of Guiuan Mayor Amadito Gonzales Rivera, about 150,000 tons of stockpiled nickel ore were transported by EMC to Japan since January last year.

Bishop Leonardo Y. Medroso, the former bishop of Borongan, said the rest of the local clergy had repeatedly expressed their collective views against mining operations in Manicani through studies by the cultural and human rights movements officials.

Medroso had said that only the operators and other government officials stood to benefit from the mineral deposits.

Bishop G. Crisóstomo, MSC, who presided the open letter, on the other hand, said the mining operations would do more good than harm to the people of Manicani.

"Those who are against us worry only about the environmental hazards, but they should also consider the people living. But they should know that we have a command which we always can ground follow—to protect the environment and to rehabilitate mined-out areas," he said.

TOALLON or cut to allow mining in Manicani Island is the question brooding residents, government officials and the clergy

BUSINESS

Gov't warned against complacency in reforms

WB exec says economic takeoff hinged on stable economic policies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE WORLD BANK'S DIRECTOR FOR THE Philippines yesterday said the government need not to follow through on fiscal reforms made in the past two years to help make the economy take off and for years of the fast growth in the region.

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Speaking at the opening days of the 22nd Philippine Business Conference, Joachim von Amsberg said gains coming from the reforms needed to bring the government into a state of complacency, which would undercut efforts needed through the coming years toward of delivering the country to a high-er level of development.

"Rapid progress is possible but the current situation can lead to either a scenario of muddling through or a take off," von Amsberg said. "Strong policy signals and credibility followed by real investments would [spell] the difference."

He said fast track "reassurance"—characterized by the fastest growth rate observed globally...provided unprecedented opportunities for the Philippines for dynamic development and to rapid poverty reduction.

"There is no structural obstacle for this to happen but there is also a need for coherent and consistent policy implementation," the WB's head chief said.

Von Amsberg added that the country's potential for rapid development rested on a booming neighborhood, an educated, English-speaking people; the rich natural resources, and the dynamic sectors of electronics, business services and overseas workers who bring in foreign exchange.

But he said the country was tentatively reaping modest development successes, with growth driven by remittances and consumption rather than by investments or productivity. "The key to that are investment climate reforms and implementation of public-private sector partnership reforms."

The official said there was also slow poverty reduction and high inequality that impede development. "The key to that are investment-building, especially about the elements for targeting public programs for the poor."

Von Amsberg suggested a policy agenda aimed at addressing the situation that, for one, covers macroeconomic fiscal stability by strengthening the rule of law and credibility of contracts.

He added that progress with privatization needed to be pushed to allow corporations rather than the government to develop a vigorous market.

"[There should also be a] shift of focus toward economy-wide deregulation and incentives and away from sector or firm-specific incentives," he added. "Transaction costs and red tape also need to be reduced further."

He said policies could be improved by ensuring open and competitive bidding processes in the infrastructure sector, widening transparently the rules on managing environmental and social risks and overseas investing, supporting massive public and private investments to build up a pool of skilled information technology workers; ensuring a more efficient regime of mergers, acquisitions and liquidations in the financial sector.

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienco (R), Clark Development Corp. president Levi Laus and Susan Lee (L), PCCI chair for tourism, retailing and franchising, tour CDC's pavilion at the opening of the 22nd Philippine Business Conference (PBC) Expo at the Exposition Hall of the Manila Hotel.

MWSS gives Maynilad bidders more time to prepare offers

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND Sewerage System (MWSS) has agreed to extend for another two weeks the deadline for the submission of financial and technical bids on the re-privatization of Manila's west concession area.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macro Cruz said the utility's board decided in a meeting late Tuesday to move the final submission to Nov. 7 instead of the Oct. 24 deadline.

This would prevent further delays and strictly follow the schedule set by the MWSS-led Bidpillad Board of Observers, added MWSS and Maynilad Board Joel Oscar Garcia.

Garcia said the five interested bidders now have enough time to do their due diligence and prepare their bids.

Three of the four participating companies eying for the government's $3.97 project interest in Maynilad Water Services Inc. had sought an extension for them to conduct a due diligence on the company.

Manila Water Co. Inc., a unit of Ayala Corp., the ONCI Holdings-Metro Pacific Investment Corp. consortium and the unidentified Sumitomo of India filed the request, arguing that the MWSS failed to provide the needed documentation Sept. 6.

"There is some procedural delay on their [MWSS] part. We obtained the transaction documents on Sept. 21. We do not want to rush our bids," a company official from one of the bidding companies said. "We will need more time."

The official also noted that the submission of the final bids was circled on the MWSS would then open the financial bid envelope of qualified bidders to determine the highest offer. The Privatization Council would determine with finality if the price was right and if the process was carried out according to law before confirming the winning bidder.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chole Bunal-Pormanes

WEDNESDAY 18U ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney with the US Demo Kitchen team

Training chefs the US way

By Miguel Escano
Correspondent

A USDA demo kitchen for the region opens at the CCA complex

THE AMERICAN BRAND OF culinary training comes closer to home with the opening of the United States Demonstration Kitchen and Learning Facility at the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) Manila.

The US Demo Kitchen was unveiled recently at the CCA complex in Malpitong Avenue, Quezon City. US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney graced the event, as did members of the Regional US Trade Association and key operators. Also in attendance were members of the Council of Chefs, a group of US-educated Filipino chefs.

"We have here a wonderful partnership that harnesses the creativity of Philippine chefs, expands US culinary training and US food products," said Kenney at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Regional hub

The US Demo Kitchen includes a fully-equipped training kitchen and theater-style seating for 42 people. It boasts state-of-the-art equipment funded by the Enterprising Marine Officer (EMO). Cooking demonstrations will be aided by two 42-inch plasma television screens, three rotating video cameras, theater surround system and an audio-visual control booth.

The project is spearheaded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in partnership with the CCA. Guest chefs sponsored by the USDA, as well as members of the Council of Chefs, will supervise the training sessions on-site. Certain modules will be open to the public free of charge.

The US Demo Kitchen is envisioned to be a regional hub for US culinary training in Southeast Asia not only Filipino chefs but also other Asian chefs.

According to the CCA, "The goal is to refine the knowledge to a broader base of audience within a shorter period of time."

Baking demo

To showcase the facility, guest chef Fred Pfister and training head Jill Smolljan conducted a baking demo: tart pastry recipes (lemon), which kicked off the Baking and Pastry Module; she then set of training sessions for October and November. Other modules to be offered over the next few months include for Greats and Confectionary, Hot and Cold Kitchen, Beverage and Wine Pairing, Food Safety and Health and Nutrition.

Guest chef Fred Pfister comes from a family of Swiss bakers. In fact, his surname "Pfister" is an old Swiss German term for "baking." Pfister shared that his grandfather owned a small hotel and bakery in Switzerland. When grandpa retired, the son, an excellent pastry cook, continued the business.

"As a small child I spent many hours watching my dad at work and later followed in his footsteps almost as a matter of course," said

TRAINING Cl

STATE-OF-THE-ART US Demo Kitchen has theater-style seating, modern culinary equipment from premier American brands, and advanced audio and visual facilities.

SEARED scallops and braised pork belly with black beluga lentils and herb salad

By Tita Manoso-Tello
Contributor

A WELCOME RECEPTION greeted the Asia-Pacific agents, amidst a rustic and charming setting—a tree-lined clubhouse, a cobblestone courtyard complete with fountain à la Bellini's "La Dolce Vita." La dolce vita, indeed!

It was a fitting setting for the Kendall-Jackson Master's Reserve Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wines that put the Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates Group family on the California and global wine maps.

It was no laughing matter. Chardonnay that was an accidental "hit" when it was introduced in 1982. Grapes of the wine labeled it "Too sweet!" but the American palate was insistent and a star was born. It continues unchallenged as the No. 1 chardonnay in the US, over two million cases of the Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay were sold.

Today Kendall-Jackson is ranked ninth in Wine Business Monthly's Top 30 US companies of 2005.

Elevated palates

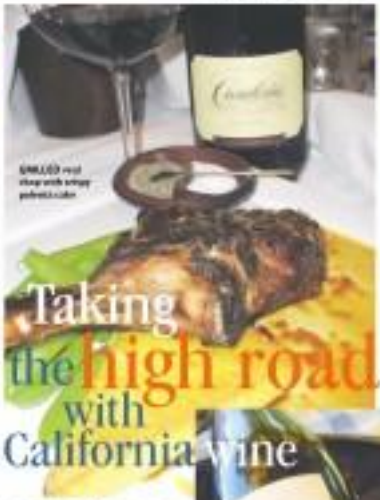
The second day of the Asia-Pacific wine symposium included a field to the Hawkeye Vineyard at Alexander Mountain Estate. The board drive from our hotel was swift, mostly a—for the breathtaking views that greeted us upon arrival. Rich only were we greeted by a 360-degree view of vines, as far as the eye can see, but closely buffet spread was waiting.

On the catering we lunch selection was a worthy match to the wine selection—the Kendall-Jackson Riesling, Cabernet and Grand Reserve Cabernet. We started our adieu to a spread of maple balsamic pork tenderloin and sesame roasted salmon. Oh, by, there were complemented by citrus wild rice, arugula and watercress with peppered mushrooms and some grilled vegetables.

The apple entrée that most wine lovers loathe the sweet fantasy of being able to make their own wine. Kendall-Jackson gave us the opportunity to experience this—however fleetingly. The winemaster at Kendall-Jackson, Randy Ullom, called my blend "... a powerful wine ... with real flavor of the fruit that explodes in the palate, all day through." For a moment there, I was entertaining visions of my new award-winning, Robert Parker worthy, limited-wine, but that soon passed.

Future that evening was at Kenda Restaurant where we were treated to Caviar Pitters, Grilled Quail, Tenuta Di Arceno and Edwardo were featured. The food was, as usual, meticulously accompanied

THE KENDALL-JACKSON Wine Center in Sonoma county



SMALLED red clasp with wispy pubescent color

Taking the high road with California wine

JEAN Jackson, founder/owner of Kendall-Jackson wineries

KENDALL JACKSON Grand Reserve 2004 Chardonnay

to the wines—grilled calamari salad, grilled veal chops with a cassis polenta, roasted spiced pork a sweetly potato sauce, a 300-plus-member of pâtisserie cake with crusted berries softened by wine Fraiche. The Cambria 2004, white-bottled Pinot Noir, which came from Sin Maria Valley in Julia's vineyard, I stood out with succulent fruit flavors and soft structure with blueberry undertones. Bravos.

Kendall-Jackson dinner

On our third day, we took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hartford Family winery, a tasting session of the Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs of Jo Cotton Wines, with executive winemaker Elizabeth Grace Donaghue, followed a picnic lunch by the pond at La Crema.

Bravos was at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Center in Santa Rosa with winemakers Randy Ullom, Kendall-Jackson president Jean Arnold, and Kendall-Jackson CEO Barbara Banke, who is also Jess Jackson's wife.

The highlight of our Asia-Pacific symposium was a reception held by Jess Jackson, who stepped down as CEO of Kendall-Jackson in 2001 and passed along the reins to his wife Barbara. The small operation that began in 1982 is now a global billion-dollar operation, selling an estimated five million cases of wine a year.

We gave a brief talk about what makes Kendall-Jackson special—the fact that we source grapes pinpoint-precise for best coaching value, the climate of cool-air celebration, grapes that grow on hillsides prone to be more difficult, not only for the Cannes, but also for the wine. In short, the vines that grow here are exposed to the sun and more extreme weather conditions than the vines still produce fruit that, but fruit of a high-quality. As we high-density farming, where vines are ready to work hard—or and are "stressed"—so it is with hillside-grown grapes.

Aside from the company's philosophy of using hillside grapes, the company also focused on an oak-based history in France—another usual investment in the industry.

In person, it is clear that Jess Jackson is quite passionate about the wine-making business, although he prefers to let his wine speak for itself. That is how confident is he about his wines—whether it carries the Kendall-Jackson name or other brands like his ultra-premium such as Cambria, Stonestreet, Pepi, La Crema, Cambria, Matua.

As if to hone the point about his wines speaking for itself, our lunch that day was the most casual of the lot—a stop at a St. Helena institution, Taylor's Refresher. This little grill stop (drop by their, St. Helena has been serving their special burgers and shakes since 1949 and has retained its no-frills down-to-earth look of old. Tasty new additions to Our menu include blue-cheese burger, an old burger and espresso beans milkshake.

The appeal of Kendall-Jackson's Master Reserve Chardonnay is that it is a wine without pretension. It tastes as good with a five-star meal and is just as complexly at home with another food, like burger. It's casual without being cheap. It's luxury without all the affectations. It's got pedigree but it's not overly boastful, preferring instead to let its taste speak for itself.

Our entire three days proved just that—you don't have to sacrifice quality for quantity and, in Kendall-Jackson's case, taking the high road literally and figuratively doesn't necessarily mean an inflated cost. Given their passion and dedication to wine-making, consider it a bargain.

JOHN Evans, president of Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates, the writer and Barbara Banke, CEO, Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates

Training chefs the US way in RP

Philippine Daily Inquirer C3

Filipino culinary students in demand.

The chef praised the talent of Filipino chefs. "I love working with Philippine chefs. They are very talented and very helpful around the kitchen. Cooking is always working either people happy. It's also chefs make it a point to make other people happy through cooking."

Cherry Walnut Muffin

Dry ingredients:
- 140 g baker's flour
- 280 g sugar
- 10 g baking powder
- 15 g salt, 80 g walnuts
- 170 g dried cherries
- 90 g grated cheddar
- 60 g mild powder

Wet ingredients:
- 140 g egg
- 440 g water
- 140 g olive oil

Mix dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and mix until mixed. Do not over-mix. It is only necessary to combine ingredients to a smooth batter. After making, add to a greased muffin pans. Bake at 180 degrees F for about 20 minutes. Apply topping: Mixture with yield approximately 24 muffins. Bake at 200°C for 15-20 minutes.

HERE Bocuse d'Or Culinary Team member Chef Claro Cabardo prepares a dish in the kitchen of the Culinary Center of Asia in Lipa City, Batangas province, 110 kilometers south of Manila. Cabardo is one of the chefs who will represent the Philippines in the Bocuse d'Or Culinary Competition in Lyon, France in January 2007. The Philippines is one of the 24 countries competing in the prestigious culinary competition. (AFP/Jay Directo)

Apple and Wild Blueberry Strudel

Dough mixture:
- 500 g all-purpose flour
- 2 g salt
- 1 eggyolk
- 75 g milk
- 75 g butter
- 1 dessert vinegar

Apple mixture:
- 800 g apples, sliced (preferably Fuji apples)
- 80 g sugar
- 1 lemon, zest and juice (To get zest, lightly scrape peel using a grater.)
- 1 g cinnamon
- 80 g apricot jam
- 80 g dried blueberries

Other ingredients:
- 100 g butter
- 75 g bread crumbs
- 50 g butter, melted (for brushing pastry)

Preparation for baking:
Sift flour and salt and make a hole. Add egg yolk, milk, butter, and vinegar. Mix into a smooth dough. Cover and allow dough to rest for 30 minutes. Combine ingredients for apple mixture. Fry butter and bread crumbs in a pan until light brown. Set aside to cool. Roll into a thin roll.

Baking and finishing:
Place the roll onto a baking tray. Brush with remaining melted butter. Bake at 200°C for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut. Strudel can be served warm with custard sauce or fresh cream.

AMBASSADOR Kasenyi with CCA's Rodjie Tecson and Annie Pascual-Guevarra

Thank God for honest people

By Linda B. Bolido

IT SEEMS TO BE THAT'S HAS MORE than just Friday to be thankful for.

Recently, The wants to commend the restaurant chain, specifically the Glorietta 3 branch, "for hiring the best people" and for taking good care of customers.

The has every reason to be happy with TGIF's service and staff. "I accidentally left my checklist bag in the restaurant... on one of the seats... I had important documents, identification cards, calling cards, and an ATM card inside. I called another time I used inside the bag. I might have never retrieved it if the service not staff hadn't noticed it right away.

Told not even realize that I left it. Thankfully, the manager, whose name I unfortunately can not recall, called up my home number and I subsequently went back to about 1:00. I went back to TGIFriday's and was able to retrieve my checklist bag and all my possessions that same evening, about 30 minutes after I left the restaurant.

"The manager, to answer I was the owner of the checklist bag, asked a few questions about [its] contents, so as that it highly commendable.

"My utmost appreciation and commendation to the service manager and chef of TGIFriday's at Glorietta 3, as we especially the one who found my bag and alerted the manager. I will always return and dine in their restaurant as I am assured of high-quality service from their very efficient and honest staff."

Feedback

A few years from now, fictitious Dyheng will probably find himself in the situation he found himself in that of this moment he is just annoyed and befuddled by the whole thing.

Reacting to an item in the first column, the buffet experience of another reader, Dyheng told of his own "unusual" experience.

"I flew to Bangkok, 1984, and I sent a package to my cousin in Michigan... Pretty simple don't you think considering Michigan is not too far from Chicago, around 30 minutes by plane?

The reader told he sent the package Sept. 27, but by Oct. 5, when he read his e-mail, it had not reached its recipient.

"When I checked FedEx's tracking site, it showed that my package was to, of all places, Frankfurt, Philippines. We're so glad there's no such place."

Dyheng said Fedex's explanations sounded something about misdialed zip.

Well, I guess we really should put the blame on all those other Filipinos around scrambling package home. FedEx probably should recommend one package from a Pinoy going to another Pinoy had to be destined to the Philippines.

Consumer month

October is Consumer Awareness Month but the consumerist knows that I myself found out six weeks of shop-arounds I can adopt advertisement about it...

I hope that is not the reason of restrictive based no for the month. So needed to be more vigilant consumer's aware of and exercise their rights on day the law.

Tip

A friend gave me this book "Gardening Magic" by Jerry Green. Here's one said there, advice spice allows, I will share some tips from the book that you may or may not find useful. Here's one that is relevant because of the fear of dengue:

"Standing mosquitoes by rubbing Limerius on[ground, not food filled on your skin. The rhyme in Limerius keeps mosquitoes away."

I haven't tried it so I can't vouch that it will work.

Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ortigas Roos Avenue Mandaluyong and Rigus Ave., Makati City; PO Box 2105 Makati Central Post Office; (632) 896-6000 or 896-6000 (632) 896-6000; or e-mail ... com.ph.

'I.S.L. FRIDAY'S offers Triple-Barrel Combos until January.

On the menu are Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Salmon, Chicken and Chops, Jack Daniel's 'Triple-Barrel Ribs, Chops and Shrimp, and Jack Daniel's Triple-Barrel Chicken, Chop and Shrimp that includes chicken, shrimp, fries and steamed shrimp.

I.S.L. Friday's has branches at Unit 4-A, Robinsons Place Manila, Ermita, Manila, Quezon City, Starmall, Alabang Town Center, and Sta. Lucia East.

TUBO BUT BETTER will open its

CHOWHOG offers dine-in guests an 15-percent discount Oct. 18. Cravings branches are located at: Katipunan, Tomas Morato, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Fraser Place Serviced Residences and at the Festival Mall.

DINING OUT

Triple-barrel treats

Starting mid-to-late October at the De La Rosa Carpark to serve the central business district of Makati. The chain serves special encasements with queso en bola and hot drinks. Also available are sugar-free coffee and cold drinks. Pinoy meals, such as sinigang, pritong galunggong, pancit palabok, pancit bihon, pancit canton, pancit sotanghon, pancit luglog, pancit malabon, pancit habhab, pancit lomi, pancit miki, pancit molo, pancit bihon guisado, pancit canton guisado, pancit sotanghon guisado, pancit luglog guisado, pancit malabon guisado, pancit habhab guisado, pancit lomi guisado, pancit miki guisado, pancit molo guisado

Islam's holiest month ends with Eid'l Fitr

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MEET Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila executive chef Abdulmalik "Tato" Sanggacala.

While at the Office of Muslim Affairs (an agency under the Office of the President), they so graciously and patiently answered my most infinite questions on Ramadan and the feast of Eid'l Fitr.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and the holiest month of Islam.

It is the month Joshua Bin Nun (Joshua) and a close guidance and judgment for that his members) will distinguish right from wrong). "Whoever among you witnesses the month of Ramadan should fast through it." (Qur'an—2:185)

When does Ramadan start?

For this year, based on the lunar calendar, it started Sept. 23 and, in other countries, Sept. 24.

Explain the fast and why do Muslims fast?

The Ramadan fast is a month-long duty fast, from dawn to dusk. Fasting during this month is often thought to have many figuratively all one. It is the time when the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of hell are closed. Ramadan comes from the word ramd, which literally means to burn.

Fasting is one of the fasters of the five pillars of Islam. Ramadan is the month of focusing one's physical, emotional and spiritual self. It is a time when one just eats for sustenance.

Fasting does not only mean the denial of food but the non-indulgence in luxuries and excesses as well. We give up what we normally enjoy, like watching movies or indulging in favorite entertainment or parties. We, too, keep a low profile."

Give us an idea of a typical day in the **month of Ramadan.**

Apart from the duty fast, two (2) the usual nine (prayers). There are five calls to Islam. The dawn prayer, Subi' (middayprayer, Dhuhr; afternoon, Asr; sunset, Maghrib; night, Isha'a. During Ramadan, there is taraweeh (2.0 hours of prayer of prostration) done after Maghrib.

Which does one know that the fast can be broken?

In the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings Upon Him), once one can no longer distinguish a strand of your hair from that means the fast can be broken. Put out a strand of your hair. Whether in a proper visible, you can see what the sun is out. In modern times though, we use 100% (global positioning system).

HALAL Technical Assistance Unit chief Madrigal Simmol; Dusit Thani Laguna Executive Director of External Relations Division Officer/Muslim Affairs Unit chief Abdulmalik "Tato" Sanggacala

Are there certain types of food one cannot during Ramadan or preferred food to break the fast?

The only food that there are food products which are unhealthy good for you to take once the fast is broken. In the Philippines, we take bread, in Iraq and Iran, flat bread, while in Saudi, they take dates, which are very nutritious.

Chef Tato speaks of the Ramadan diet: "Breaking fast with dates and praying before Dhuhr (midday meal) and at the end of the day during Ramadan, are of ruling after fasting) are both mentioned in the Hadith — Sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, 'If any one of you is fasting, let him break his fast with dates.'

"The Prophet (PBUH) used to break his fast by eating dates before offering maghrib and, if not dates, water was available, he used to substitute dried grapes.

"The body benefits from the high sugar content of dates. The sugar of dates crosses quickly to the liver and is converted into energy more quickly than other sediments. After fasting, Muslims have immediate need for energy for prayer and to restore their strength.

"Dates have a special place in Islam and among the Prophet's (PBUH) frequently consumed food. For that reason, the benefits of dates are both physical and spiritual. The act of following the Prophet's (PBUH) tradition is our way of connecting and remembering him. The Prophet (PBUH) said a house without dates is a house without food. It is one of the oldest cultivated fruits, known as the 'bread of the desert.' The date palm is regarded as tree of life."

Chef Tato shares fasting guidelines so one may comfortably and fully enjoy the spiritual benefits of Ramadan.

• The diet should be simple and should not differ from the normal diet.

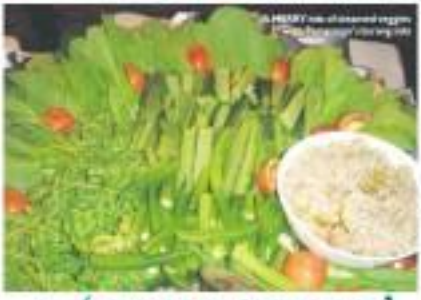
• Eid'l Fitr should be safe the normal

SUNTCO

Next time someone tells you to get lost, tell them you can't.

Link 4A

LIFESTYLE



So 'manyaman' is this Kapampangan festival

SINIGANG na Tanigue

The 2-year-old event gives guests a taste of Pampanga's various gastronomic delights

Text and photos by Yungie Baga-Reyes

OVER THE WEEKEND, Pampanga bolstered its claim to dominance in the gastronomic arena with its two-day food festival aptly dubbed "Manyaman" (Kapampangan for "delicious").

The festival paid tribute to the province's rich culinary tradition.

Now on its second year, the Manyaman festival is celebrated by various resorts, hotels and restaurants in the area, giving guests a taste of the province's various gastronomic delights.

The Fontana Resort and Country Club in Clark, Pampanga, participating in the festival for the first time, had a wide array of delicacies laid out on a long buffet table by the poolside.

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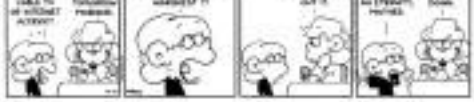
the Supermeat

FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABDON

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PHIL LANDON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEHONTE — BY ELIZABETH CHEHENGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN MANLAPAZ

BIRD MACHINE — BY HANAH ABREN

MANOBOSYONG — BY JOHNED TEJERO

TULOOK — BY PAPI LANDO TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pendulum duration?
5 Fish chicken
7 Can with an ominous sound
14 Pitcher Hershiser
15 Every bit
16 Fuel
17 Tell
18 Lackadaisical
19 Start of a line
20 Where Hawaii is
21 Small songbird
22 Ornamental
23 Dreadful
24 Boost from behind
25 Part 2 of quote
26 Greek war leader
27 Revealing the tongue?
28 Pampering
31 Undercut
34 Khan's offspring
36 UFO crew
40 Part 3 of quote
41 Regent's realignment
42 Give fair to
43 Sporting section
44 Shed
45 Exhaustion
47 End of quote
48 Celebrated crew
49 Mexican foreign subject
52 Abandoned
56 Of the sun god
58 Square in an Orson's song
59 Monotonous
61 Tuscany Bean
62 Ooze

DOWN
1 Pod for Shamu
2 You're Mia's instrument
3 Precision bar mat
4 Predatory insect
5 Road-sign data
6 Cities
7 Stones
8 Whitetail
9 Cry' breaks
10 Boundary
11 Weight or load
12 Fundamentals
13 Latin being
21 Architect Saarinen
23 Spanish cheers
25 Dirt out
27 Small tomahawk
29 Mother-of-pillow
30 Joint rod
31 Ballet bounces
33 Mom from Manchester
35 Cravings
36 Astronomer Edgar
37 Jai
38 Chatter chatting
39 Sleeveless wear
41 Grizzled bears
42 Actress Hayworth
44 Giggle at
47 Be nervous
49 Hungarian's words
50 Shading since
52 "20/1 joke"
53 Football legally
54 Type of bath or sink
55 Cut back
57 Utility
58 Bachelor-in-Fedora
60 Lyric the bass

By Mark F. Weitzberg
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Danc Ozco

							4	9
	5	7	4	9				6
	1		2					
	2	1						
	3						8	
						3	6	
					6		7	
4				3	8	5	9	
3	9							

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

9	7	6	8	1	5	6	2	3
5	3	2	9	6	6	7	1	4
8	1	4	3	2	7	5	6	9
7	8	5	2	6	4	3	9	1
3	9	8	6	7	1	2	4	5
4	2	1	5	3	9	6	7	8
1	4	7	8	5	2	9	3	6
2	6	3	1	9	6	4	5	7
6	5	9	7	4	3	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

SOMETHIN' Fiery's Fresh Catch of the Day Combo Platter

THE SECOND floor was made over to lavish and elegant for themed parties, including weddings, debuts, baptism and corporate events.

When you are angling for value for your money

STUFFED Asian combo makes an interesting centerpiece.

TUNA Steak

Text by Margie Baga-Reyes
Photos by August dela Cruz

FOUR YEARS TO THE BUSINESS and Jonnellini Fishy remains a "seafood marketing" community offering a variety of fresh catch of the day cooked in a way only true-blue anglers know.

"I believe people go to Jonnellini Fishy for the seafood dishes we offer because they know the owners are anglers who more or less know how they want their seafood to be done and served," says Ramon Rose Bolinaydo, president of Jonnellini Fishy and award-winning angler who competes both locally and internationally.

"Our customers have tried and enjoyed our seafood fish, which is better than blue combo. When they are served, they feel it's grilled, sizzling, fried with creamy gravy or skewered), they are assured that it is the best way to cook it."

Through the years, Jonnellini Fishy's menu has always consisted primarily of fish...grilled, fried, steamed, marinated, sautéed or stewed. You can opt for tuna, salmon, catfish, swordfish, papio, lapu-lapu, eel, crocheve or bangus.

But clams, prawns, squids, crabs, we provide seafood others would not also provide: stewed shelling, cooked in oil or on some milk, or prepared as sushi or sashimi.

Bestsellers are the Inihaw na Pusit, Pinais na Alimasag, Crispy Hunter ng Tuna, Grilled Salmon Belly and Fresh Oysters by the Bucket.

New additions: Fresh Oysters and Prawn na Alimasag become instant hits with families and barkadas.

"Every quarter we try to change the menu and come up with new dishes, including promos like combo meals," says Jun Policarpio, the restaurant's vice president and operations manager.

Combo platter

Jonnellini Fishy has come up with the Seafood Combo Platter promo for diners who want different kinds seafood without burning a hole in their pocket.

The platter, actually an oversized, sturdy made-to-order seafood tray, has enough for four to five persons. With the combo platter, says Policarpio, they give diners their favorite seafoods and time for their money.

A Seafood Platter, priced at P750, has Swordfish Steak, Grilled Salmon Belly, Pinais na Alimasag, Fresh Oysters, Inihaw na Pusit, Pinaluto na Pilipit, Pansit, sizzling Tahong, Steamed Clams and Bagoong Rice for P909.

Another platter, named Jonnellini Fishy also has something for you seafood lovers, the All-Meat Platter that includes Chicken-pork adobo, Inihaw na Liempo, Chicken Inasal, Pork Barbecue Ribs, Lechon Kawali, Kaldereta, Bistek Tagalog, Steamed Rice and Buko Pandan for P1,000.

Jonnellini Fishy is in Kamuning City, Lilio, QC. Call 4372 222 and 4274432.

E-mail the author at rbaga@inquirer.com.ph

ALL-MEAT Combo Platter

BOARD chair Jennifer Bolinaydo (r., front) from left) with Teresa Rose Policarpio (second from left), bar owner Emma Lyn, brother Jun Bolinaydo (left) and other restaurant officers and staff

So 'manyaman' . . .

From page D1

KAPAMPANGAN's traditional cooking

The festival fare Fontana offered included the popular sisig, lechon sa cangue and kalderetang kambing.

Guests also savored *Aso-kaong Baka*, relleong bangus, steamed rapidrider with barong *Aswa* (marinated deer) and lechon *Baboy*.

Other dishes that guests also enjoyed, although not strictly from Pampanga, included lamb, pinoy sweetbreads and pinakbet.

"This is Fontana's first time to join the Manyamman festival," said Tony Reyes, the resort's general manager. "We intend to join the festival every year to showcase the Kapampangans' culinary greatness."

For dessert, diet meals were not serious. We were looking for *sapin-sapin* or *chicharon* (*mapa Mama made it*) candies's mille but there was none so we settled for steaming bibingka.

Fontana's celebration of Manyamman has coincided with the completion of its Spirit Bar and Convention Center which can accommodate about 1,000 guests.

Fontana is adding rooms 400 plus villas. The new villas will each have a private pool and terrace.

Special guest during the festival was billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes, himself a Kapampangan. He joined in all-session exhibition matches with amateur people at the Fiesta Lounge area before enjoying the sumptuous Pampanga feast.

FONTANA Convention Center is available for all kinds of events.

CHICKEN Embutido

KAPAMPANGAN billiards ace Efren "Bata" Reyes and Tony Reyes, Fontana Leisure Parks general manager

A personal . . .

From page D4

the empanadas, as well as the chiffon cake. It is famous, yes, but it's a mix that ends up actually being our own.

Regional tales

And just to complete the picture about how diverse Philippine food is, the next chapter is about regional cooking. It covers only pieces of friends and families whose stories and recipes are from such places, Pampanga, Laguna, Bicol, Cebu, Ilocos, Iloilo, Bacolod and Biñan.

Some, for instance, come from friends, from you. But the book, his brothers, Bubbie, asked his cooks/cooks to cook (with specialties. Barbie Imson, Tonee said it was unfortunate some specialties had disappeared like the kaping (*Bata cassava cookies*). But the rest are still there.

Amy was pleased how she finally cute and named when Romy (and to talk about. One was the simplest, fried "layers of sliced saba covered in cinnamon sugar arranged on a cassava bed." The other was Bicolandia (*chopsticks*) cooked ones and sweet potatoes, pureed then pounded "with grated *buko*, sugar and butter to a semi-solid state."

For the chapter on special-event cooking, the authors chose Christmas. It's when, to this day, we still look forward to food more than to gifts or to the Christ Child. Recipes are by chefs from Clarks, Recipes are by chefs from Clarks, Recipes are by chefs from Clarks,

'Memories of Philippine Kitchens' is another way for the Dorotan couple to show more of the country and its cooking

A personal book on Filipino cooking

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

SOMEONE COOKED ADOBONG mani at gaze on Martha Stewart's show, a friend told me. Before I could guess who, another friend called to report it was Romy Dorotan.

Romy isn't known in this country but he has made a name for himself in New York. Credit him 143 Mercer St., Soho District), a Filipino-and Pan-Asian restaurant owned by Romy and his wife, Amy Besa, has been acclaimed and praised highly by publications such as Gourmet, New York Times, New York magazine and Wall Street Journal.

Romy was in town for a brief visit and had just enough time to talk about the book he and his wife authored, which is set to be launched next year. Neal Oshima, who took the photos in the book, set up the interviews.

Over lunch of sisig, pansit palabok and daing na bangus at Gracie's, I told Romy the place was chosen mainly for the halo-halo. Romy said the halo-halo worked because it was not too filling.

He recalled his Martha Stewart moment with amusement. They rehearsed the cooking, even the conversation about using chili peppers in the adobo. Romy comes from Iloilo region in Ilonggo so that answers the question why he chose to cook adobo as guest.

Stage fright

When the time came to be on camera, he forgot his lines. So, when Stewart asked if he was using chili in his adobo, all he could say was "yes."

Through Creadillon, Filipino food has more of room it in New York. And now the book "Memories of Philippine Kitchens" is another way for the couple to show more of the country and its cooking.

Romy is kind me on how the book was organized. Some people, he said, found it confusing because it's not divided into the usual main ingredients or even regions. He emphasized that it's a personal book in Fil-Am cuisine using family recipes of Amy, his mom and all those they interviewed. Hence the subhead "Stories and Recipes from Pot and Stove."

When I finally saw the book, the flow of the chapters made sense. Even else can use it isn't a personal cookbook done in a cooking class through one's own childhood remembrance! And for Amy, as well as for most of us, those memories start with Lola's cooking.

Amy's maternal grandmother, Honey Carmen Oliva Carsaro, produced such memorable goodies as Set Pie, Bambolo, Kitchen Inspiring from Bamboo, pan de sal, cassava cake, yemas and mango jam from sweetpea Zambales mangoes.

In that section, it is Romy's adobo de sal that calmed my eyebrows. While finishing his adobo Rancho's halo-halo, Romy mentioned he hadn't seen ube or macapuno until he other Asian recipes.

'Ube'-flavored

In the book, Amy wrote, "Romy can't resist using purple yam (ube in all baked things, such as ube crostini and pizza (ube)." Even his fresh lumpia has a wrapper made of ube flour.

It is this application of contradictional forms to traditional cooking that is a trademark of Creadillon and which critic Wini Reminisky described as "fusion but coming from the other direction." Just imagine the obligatory of salmon tocino I tasted on my first visit there.

The new chapter chooses main dishes that, to the authors, define cooking as we always had sans leftovers—adobo, sinigang, kinilaw, dare-dare and tinkinin. It also includes the controversial ingredients, vinegar and MSG.

Of course, under these general headings, you can list unlimited versions. The chicken adobo in the Martha Stewart show is there, the same one served in Creadillon accompanied with mushrooms and bamboo shoot rice.

Filipino food, however, isn't complete without including dishes with Chinese, Spanish, Mexican and American influences. The chapter zeroes in on pancit, lumpia, relleno and crispy pata, merienda, spirituals and

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

FREE

Third contestant bows out of 'Philippine Idol'

By Marinel R. Cruz

BEYOND: Sajor I will not stop singing.

THE EVICTION OF Reymoral Sajor from "Philippine Idol" this week has greatly frustrated Ryan Cayabyab, composer and one of the judges on ABC-5's singing talent search program.

"What an outrage! How frustrating, but totally unsurprisingly Pinoy," Cayabyab, or Mr. C to his colleagues, told Inquirer Entertainment on Monday, after Sajor became the third contestant to be voted out of the competition.

On Sunday night, a disgruntled Mr. C said: "First of all, I'm shocked. Although right from the start we knew that what we say here has so little more or no effect on the voters. I can imagine next week, since we also talked it would be a hard-hitting judge's night, the voters [may] do nothing but the best ones, most meritless? Somehow scrutinizing matters? Hmm."

The following day, Mr. C called his comment "an emotional outburst."

"Seriously, making nice won't even have any effect. Maybe I will just play it cool, maybe just suffocate the grand voters and pretend that nothing is changing," he joked, too. "On the other hand, that might have no effect, too. Maybe I should just crack jokes!"

Sajor "Idol" contestant Jose Pardo and Idol Lyceum last week said they were certain their buddies in "romance with the audience" caused their duet duo to be flunk.

Sajor said he felt the same: "It's probably because I didn't get enough votes. My family did the best they could in campaigning for me. I, on the other hand, did my part in studying my songs and delivering them well. In the end, it's really up to the viewers to decide who will stay or go. That's beyond my control."

Meanwhile, "Idol" judge Francis Magalona is on a five-week vacation leave. Singer-producer Ingi Melendez plays hit for the rapper-TV host this weekend.

Different "guest judges" will replace Magalona each week, depending on the show's theme.

Last weekend's theme focused on the interpretation of winning songs from the Metropop Song Festival.

Did you expect to be eliminated this week, even if you got good remarks from the judges?

No. That night, I still hoped that something good would come out of the fact that I was called as part of the Bottom 3 (Reymoral, Mau Marcelo and Gino Magdangal). Just like what, I had trouble with my microphone on the first night of the competition. The people liked how I responded to the situation and voted for me.

What's in store for you after "Idol"?

I will not stop singing. I'm going to look for a manager or an agency that will handle my career.

Mr. C 'shocked' with voters' verdict

Now that I'm out of "Idol," I can now focus on looking for gigs. Contestants aren't allowed to accept gigs or do shows apart from those that are connected with the show.

Was there any remark from the judges that you felt was unfair?

I've worked with them for almost two months. I don't think there was an instance where I felt their comments was unfair.

What aspect in your being an artist did you think you improved on after joining the competition?

We must with our vocal coach for 30 minutes every Tuesday, practice on the piano every Wednesday and have our band rehearsal every Friday. Because of the show, I now know how to plan color to each song I sing or make it my own. I also learned how to effectively interpret the songs by experimenting on adding more runs.

What did you have to give up just to join "Idol?"

Having a stable income. Since we stressed allowed to work outside of "Idol," I don't earn as

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Clean up your act . . .

From page E4

13th season of their Monday-to-Friday show "Daisy Siyete Diyodd Mushi Dikhwish."

"Where we were with Yat Bidaga, the gals were known as a group. Now we're subsloping-shine ala Indichindig," says their manager Jay Lucido.

It's a boy!

Let me share with you my "Sir" Bhargas Sgalise-Galindo's e-mail:

Hi Dolly. Yes, due end of October me. I got married last July. My husband (Karen left for Texas July 9 for work. He planned everything in 10 days long. That's why civil rites ended. So father dated on Tony Dovel. (Sir Agatha) Kissed but we'll be having a grand wedding soon. Illness will be back December or, when our son is two months old. Then we'll plan the living, at siyete-go sabong ko 'no, hehe.

If you want, you can write about it in your column. Just ha-ha lapin ng mesh to shoulder na ko ng partner to date!

I'm planning to do ensemble of my hand-painted shoes and bags by November.

Margen

E-mail: mshelong@yahoo.com

Third contestant bows . . .

From page E1

all. I'm now using the money I saved while I was in Canada. While studying as an intern in a hotel, I juggled three jobs at the same time. I worked as a banquet server, [illegible] and a waitress. I used to be part of the theater group Tropanya before flying to Canada. I was a cast member of its musical "The Little Mermaid," the prizegiving rites of "Nanita" and their Flagship picnic every summer. I missed doing all those things.

Who were you closest to among the Top 10?

I enjoyed the company of all nine contestants, but I guess I'm closest to Mau and Anna. Since I became vet stayed in the same hotel, Mau is a kababayan. We're known each other since we passed the last-ranch auditions in Cuenca City.

Are you share the C's Warwickites?

To be perfectly honest, I do. I know that winning this contest isn't based on how well a singer did during a certain week, but on how effectively he or she has discussed the audition. But it's not easy. It's important that the audience become intelligent voters. They should realize that they should vote for someone not because that person is a friend, but because he or she really deserves to win the title.

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5 THE BANQUET
6 TXT
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 BARNYARD
9 MY FIRST WEDDING
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

ERMITA

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 TXT
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
BARNYARD

METRO EAST

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 BARNYARD
8 TXT

NOVALICHES

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2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BANQUET
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE BREED
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

DASMARIÑAS | **ANGELES**

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 PULSE
1 TXT
2 PULSE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

IMUS | **STARMILLS**

1 TXT
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE BANQUET
4 TILL I MET YOU
1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 THE BREED
6 PULSE

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

1 TXT
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 THE DEPARTED
6 FLY BOYS
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

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Clean up your act, Willie

Dolly Anne Carvajal